No 61,748

THE TIMES

THURSDAY JANUARY 26 1984

20p

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

State...
Analysis of President Reagan's State of the Union Message as the election campaign gets into its stride

... of grace
Spectrum discovers how an American dissident came out of prison to become a thoroughly modern business man



Jerry Rubin: yippie reformed

Cross...
Who owns the Cross of Yeshu? Philip Howard explains all – and takes sides

... court
Rex Bellamy previews a tennis tournament designed to encourage the development of new British players

... pass
Friday Page discovers how life begins to pass by the woman who is out of work

Shipyards efficiency deal agreed

British Shipbuilders announced an agreement at national level with unions over productivity and working practices which it said placed the industry "alongside northern Europe" on competitivity. Earlier the company said it is to cut 1,872 jobs and shut three yards in the next two months Page 2

Exports recover to record level

Exports at record levels helped push Britain's current account surplus last year to £2 billion – for times the amount forecase by the Treasury last November. The suprise improvement followed large deficits earlier in the year Page 15

Bishop's attack

The Bishop of Birmingham, Dr Hugh Montefiore, has strongly attacked *The Times* for its "prejudiced and ill-founded" criticism of The Queen's Christmas broadcast Report, page 2
Letters, page 8
Powell's reply, page 12

Irish Budget

The Irish Republic's Budget put 2p on the price of beer, 2p on cigarettes, 6p on a gallon of petrol and VAT on clothes. Page 2

£3.5m tax case

Five men will face magistrates at Harrow, north London, today charged with Vat and Inland Revenue offences involving the alleged evasion of up to £3.5m in taxes

Civil wedding

A disabled former soldier who was refused a Catholic wedding, said he would marry in a register office, although the church had reversed its decision Page 3

Disaster inquiry

Safety officials began investigating the sinking of the cargo ship Radiant Med off Guernsey in which 17 crew drowned. Seven of the nine crew rescued were released from hospital.

GCHQ staff lose union rights in security crackdown

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Staff employed in the secret gathering of signals intelligence at the Government Communications Headquarters, at Cheltenham, were yesterday deprived of their right to union membership.

Ministers acted from fear that normal trade union activity, if continued, might lead to breaches of security and renewed disruption, as happened between 1979 and 1981, of work which Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, described in the Commons yesterday as of crucial importance to national security.

Sir Geoffrey's announcement was received with resentment by leaders of Civil Service trade unions, and surprise by the Opposition in Parliament.

Labour MPs were reluctant to accept his assurances that the Government's decision was in response solely to past industrial activity at the Cheltenham base, of which there has been no recurrence since 1981.

Mr Merlyn Rees,. the former Labour Home Secretary, said governments did not act in such a way unless something had happened. Sir Geoffrey, ni reply, said the earlier industrial disruption, and damaged confidence in the releability of the organization.

Ministers ad acted, he said repeatedly, only after long and serious consideration.

Sir Geoffrey acted by signing certificates yesterday under the Employment Protection Act, 1975, and the Employment Protection (Consoldiation) Act, 1978.

The immediate effect of the certificates is to remove recognition of trade unions at the Cheltenham headquarters, and to make it a condition of service for both present and new employees that they must belong only to an approved staff association.

New terms of employment will mean that staff who take industrial action of any description will be liable to disciplinary proceedings.

Sir Geoffrey announced that staff who remain at Cheltenham will each receive a payment of £1,000 in recognition of their loss of rights. They will have the option of moving to other jobs in the Civil Service or taking early retirement, for which terms in the Civil Service compare well with those in other employment.

Sir Geoffrey added that yesterday's decision would not create a precedent, and that ministers did not intend to take similar action outside the security and intelligence field.

Under pressure from Mr Denis Healey, for Labour, and Dr David Owen, for the Social Democratic Party, he said that the special provisions, which could be used only to safeguard national security were contained in statutes passed under a Labour administration, and were "already applied to other aspects of the security service".

Although Sir Geoffrey was not specific, action was taken in 1971 by a Conservative Government, and in 1976 by a Labour Government, to disallow union membership in the security service and the secret intelligence service. In the first case the powers were contained in the Industrial Relations Act, 1971, later repealed.

Mr Healey said that the two services were small bodies of professional men, but the Cheltenham headquarters was completely different in its importance and in the secrecy of its work, not differing much from civil servants in the Foreign Office or workers in armaments industries.

All had the right to industrial organization and had not abused it, any more than those at Cheltenham.

It was a shabby affair, he said, and very imprudent.

Mr Dennis Skinner, loudest among the Labour objectors, said that fascists had always used national security the chip away at hard-won liberties, especially among the trade unions. More traitors came from Eton and Harrow than from the trade unions.

Government circles, habitually mute about the work at Cheltenham, would not even put a figure on the size of the workforce yesterday. Dr Owen, a former Foreign Secretary, said it was 5,000.

Ministers explained yesterday's step by emphasizing that the disruption at Cheltenham three years ago, at the height of the Civil Service dispute, was severe, and that 33 "man-years" were lost through industrial action between 1979 and 1981. The effect of the disruption was said to have continued for some time after normal workinng was resumed.

Secrets in peril, page 2



A train trapped in the snow north of Tyndrum, Argyllshire, yesterday. Blizzards stranded several trains as points and brakes froze, and lines blocked.

Britain on new blizzard alert

By Richard Evans and Ronald Faux

Emergency services in northern Britain were braced last night for more severe blizzards, while winds up to hurricane force were predicted for the English Channel.

Up to nine inches of snow, accompanied by gales and freezing temperatures, were forecast for northern England and southern Scotland last night and today.

Last night, the London Weather Centre was unable to say when there would be a let up in the conditions which have gripped much of Britain since the weekend. "Some places will certainly experience blizzards again, especially over the hills", a spokesman said.

The North-west took the brunt of the bad weather yesterday, with six inches of snow falling in Manchester in less than three hours. In some areas ambulance crews are dealing only with emergency calls.

The search for two soldiers missing on the Cairngorms since Sunday was abandoned last night. Earlier troops from the Air Service Regiment joined in the search as civilian rescue teams stood down. Four members of the regiment who had been on a local training exercise were among 80 searchers who probed deeply-drifted snow in a final attempt to find Staff Sergeant Paul Rodgers, aged 29, and Colour Sergeant Bill Scott, aged 35.

"Short of a miracle, there is no chance of finding them alive", an Army spokesman said last night.

The National Farmers Union said yesterday that thousands of sheep were now missing and helicopters were standing by in Scotland to lift fodder to isolated livestock. In Cumbria mountain rescue teams were helping farmers reach flocks stranded or buried on the fells.

A boy aged 10, who went missing overnight from his home in Lincolnshire was found yesterday wandering around in freezing conditions. Christopher Hill, of Roman Bank, Skegness had spent the night sleeping rough and was found half a mile from his home.

In Wales, a man was in a critical condition in hospital after falling about 50 feet down a mountainside ravine where he lay in the snow overnight. Mr John Griffiths, aged 43, of Cwmavon, near Port Talbot, was found by a rescue party of foresters who followed his footprints in the snow to the edge of the drop.

"He had fallen about 500 feet down a very steep bank", Mr Stanley Heaven, one of the rescuers, said. "He is lucky to have survived."

In the Borders region, snowploughs and blowers worked flatout to clear the main trunkroads across the border. The M6, A47 and A1 roads

Continued on back page, col 3

US demand for introduction of lie-detectors blamed

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Civil Service union leaders last night branded the Government's proposed buy-out of union membership at GCHQ as "Judas money" and predicted that it would be rejected by 3,000 members.

They said that the Foreign Secretary's reasons were "a lie" and the official version a cover-up for American pressure on the Cabinet to break union resistance to the introduction of lie-detectors into sensitive defence installations.

The Council of Civil Service Unions is demanding an early meeting with Mrs Thatcher in her role as head of the Civil Service to try to dissuade the Government from going ahead with de-recognition of the five unions.

The TUC will be brought into the dispute today.

Mr John Sheldon, general secretary of the Civil Service Union which has the largest number of GCHQ members, described the ex-gratia payment offered by Sir Geoffrey as "an offensive bribe". "They already have the loyalty of these people. It was proved in 1981, when despite the pay dispute all security work at Cheltenham continued. To offer them £1,000 must suggest that it is unpatriotic to belong to a trade union, and that is a mischievous downright lie. Trade union members are just as patriotic and loyal as any other civil servants."

Union leaders were called to the Cabinet office yesterday afternoon to be told of the Foreign Office move.

The head of the civil service, Sir Robert Armstrong, cited the implications of the lengthy 1981 strike by civil servants as justification.

Mr Sheldon said: "This is a cover-up. The real reason for the announcement is that they are having pressure put on them to introduce the polygraph, to which we are opposed on the grounds of interference with civil liberties. It is the USA putting the pressure on the Government about its security system."

Mr Alastair Graham, general secretary of the largest Whitehall union, the Civil and Public Services Association, said: "I would have expected this from General Jaruzelski in Poland, but not from a Prime Minister of a democratic state. I do not believe that people's civil and trade union liberties can be bought for £1,000."

The union believes that ministers think the access enjoyed by full-time union officials to their members at GCHQ is a potential security hazard as they are not positively vetted. But nearly three years ago union leaders were warned that the United States and other

Continued on back page, col 1

Psst - want to join a union?

GCHQ

Calman

Optimistic Reagan message for nation

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

Buoyed by new poll ratings showing strong public approval of his performance, President Reagan yesterday put the finishing touches to an optimistic "State of the Union" address which was seen as the opening shot in his campaign to seek reelection for a second presidential term.

The theme of his address, which he was due to deliver before the joint Houses of Congress last night, was that under his Administration the United States had moved "from the problems of the 1970s to the solutions of the 1980s".

His nationally-televised address was expected to emphasize his accomplishments over the past three years, especially the country's present economic recovery, and also to assure Americans that his defence build-up has made the world a safer place.

Officials said the speech would not contain any new foreign policy initiatives, but the President would reemphasize his desire for improved relations with the Soviet Union and his hopes for a revival of arms control negotiations. He would also reiterate US policy on Lebanon – an issue which is causing growing public concern in the US – and on Central America.

On the domestic front the President would focus on the success his administration has had on bringing inflation down and spurring the present economic recovery. Although he had no new proposals for reducing the country's huge budget deficit – estimated to be around $200 billion (£138 billion).in the fiscal year 1985 – he was expected to announce plans for far-reaching changes

Continued on back page, col 4



Mr Reagan yesterday preparing to deliver his address

Dollar will weaken soon, says Regan

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The dollar will weaken during 1984 as American interest rates fall further, according to Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary. He said it would "defy economic history" for the dollar to remain strong while the United States continued to run a big current account deficit on its balance of payments.

Mr Regan was replying to questions from financial journalists in seven European cities (London, Bonn, Paris, Brussels, The Hague, Rome, and Geneva) for whom the American Government had arranged simultaneous live satellite links with Washington.

Most of the questioning focused on the American budget deficit. Mr Regan said that next week's budget figures would indicate a fall in the deficit of $10 billion between the fiscal years 1983 and 1984, and a similar decline for the following year.

He admitted that the deficit was "troublesome", but insisted this year's would not prevent a fall in interest rates, which he implied might drop by as much as three percentage points.

Mr Regan denied that the Reagan Administration was considering tax increases after the presidential election in November, arguing that the budget deficit could be bridged by spending cuts across the spectrum. He said that this included the defence programme: "There is no budget that cannot be cut."

Mr Regan said he expected American growth to continue at a rate of 4.5 per cent this year, and inflation to remain at about 4 per cent. This, he argued, would help to reduce the budget deficit by more than present forecasts.

He responded angrily to a question suggesting that Europeans were financing the American budget deficit. He said that Europeans were buying fewer US Treasury securities than before President Reagan took office. He also denied that capital was attracted purely by high interest rates.

Mr Regan said the health of the American economy made it a particularly attractive place to invest. In a somewhat contradictory answer later, however, he said that the dollar would weaken this year when American interest rates came down.

He argued that there was no direct connexion between the size of the budget deficit and the level of interest rates. And he insisted that the deficit was "stimulatory" to the economy, and to those economies like Britain which export to the United States.

Leading article, page 13

Bairstow backs Boycott

Yorkshire's captain, David Bairstow, said yesterday in Muscat that he would have no objection to the county's former captain, Geoff Boycott, rejoining Yorkshire next season.

Bairstow, who is in Muscat with a team of English Test cricketers to play against an Indian selection XI, said: "I'd welcome Geoff back into the team and so would most of the Yorkshire players." He added that there would be no dispute over the club's captaincy

Ray Illingworth, who led Yorkshire to the John Player League title last season, said yesterday that he was not going to play for the county again.

The former England captain explained that he was not prepared to put up any longer with the shouting and bawling which he had endured last season from some sections of the crowd.

Illingworth stops playing, page 20

Hair cut cost 'not sex bias'

By a Staff Reporter

A judge said yesterday that women must expect to pay more than men at hairdressing salons.

Judge Ward dismissed a claim in Hereford County Court by Mrs Nina Waldock of Kimbolton, near Leominster, Hereford and Worcester, that the Keith and Peter salon at Hereford had discriminated against her by charging £7.50 for a shampoo, cut and blow dry while charging her husband £4 for the same service.

The judge said that he accepted the evidence by the salon's co-owner, Mr Keith Whitney, that greater expertise was required in the cutting and styling of a women's hair than a man's. He said blow dying was part of the styling for a woman but only a drying operation for a man.

He said Mrs Waldock might have proved discrimination if she had specifically asked for her hair to be treated in the same way as a man's.

After the case Mrs Waldock, who brought the action with the support of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said she had received exactly the same service as her husband. "My hair is short and needed no more treatment than his. I hope more women will now complain about these price differences."

Mr Whitney commented: "Our win has saved men all over the country from having to pay more for their haircuts."

French pilot killed as Chad rebels down jet

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A French pilot has been shot down and killed in Chad, the Defence Ministry announced here last night. It is believed a Russian Sam7 missile was responsible.

The pilot is the first Frenchman killed in combat since troops were sent five months ago to support the Government of President Hissène Habré against the Libyan-backed forces of former President Goukouni Oueddei.

M Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, said a column af about 20 vehicles crossed the "red line", which divides the rebel-held north from the south, and attacked the military outpost of Ziguey, to the west, held by President Habré's forces.

M Hernu ordered French Jaguar pilots on a surveillance flight over the enemy. The jets came under fire rom earth-to-air missiles, however, and one was shot down. The others returned the fire and destroyed several vehicles, M Hernu said.

Meanwhile, Belgium has confirmed the capture of two doctors and lodged a protest in Tripoli with the Libyan Government.

A French humanitarian organization said the Belgian doctors had been taken two days earlier by what it believed to be the same column from the north. The organization identified the assailants as Libyans.

Sources in Paris said the French pilot had managed to eject

Doctors attacked over out-of-hours care

By Nicholas Timmins

General practitioners should not use deputizing services as an "alternative service" to the family doctors' tradition of providing out-of-hours care, the Royal College of General Practitioners said yesterday.

Doctors working for deputizing services should also be fully qualified as family doctors, a committee of the college has recommended.

The committee's report, which is being sent for consultation to all 11,000 members, recommends that a working party with governments, doctor and patient representative should examine the issue of out-of-hours care.

"Out-of-hours care at any time of the day or night is an integral part of general practice", the committee says. It emphasizes that it is opposed to the stance of those doctors who have "effectively opted out of out-of-hours care by using commercial deputizing services as a total substitute for themselves and their partners".

Dr Bill Styles, the college's secretary, said it agreed there was a role for deputizing services but they should not be used as an alternative service to cover all weekend, night and evening work.

The committee's report follows proposals by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, to restrict the use of deputizing services and to tighten up on standards.

Under these proposals doctors in group practices of three or more would be expected to provide cover without deputizing services, and single-handed practitioners and those in partnerships of two would be restricted to using them three nights a week and on alternate weekends.

Family doctors' leaders in the British Medical Association have condemned the proposals as "draconian"

Dr Styles pointed out that fewer than 45 per cent of family doctors use deputizing services, and half of those make only occasional use of them.

He said: "That means that more than two-thirds of the profession provide all or much of their out-of-hours cover." He suggested the voice of those who do their own night and weekend cover had not been heard much in the current dispute.

The college committee also argues that family doctors working for deputizing services should have undergone the full three years' training for general practice. Mr Clarke's proposals is that deputies should normally have had that training, but must have only six months' experience of general practice.

The college said it would be inconsistent to allow doctors who would not legally be allowed to be principals in general practice to treat patients out of hours unsupervised. Griffiths report, back page

Three shipyards to shut and 2,000 jobs to go as new orders dry up

British Shipbuilders is to shed another 1,872 jobs and shut down three yards in the next two months, it announced yesterday.

The yards due for closure are Clelands Shipbuilders, on the Tyne, where 405 jobs will go; Goole Shipbuilders, on Humberside (365 jobs), and Henry Robb, on the Firth of Forth (383 jobs).

The rest of the redundancies will most severely affect Clydeside, where 300 jobs will go, at Govan Shipbuilders and 35 at Ferguson-Ailsa.

On Tyneside, 135 jobs go at Clark Hawthorn, six at Wallsend Slipway and five at K.L. Marine, Newcastle upon Tyne. Sunderland Forge on Wearside loses 48 jobs, Brooke Marine at Lowestoft, Suffolk, will lose 140 and 50 jobs will go at Vickers shipyards at Barrow.

British Shipbuilders said yesterday that the redundancies would be sought "initially by voluntary procedures and transfers". Talks in London between British Shipbuilders, led by the company's chairman, Mr Graham Day and leaders from the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions broke up temporarily yesterday after three and a half hours.

Union leaders briefed yard delegates and were meeting management again later last night for further talks.

None of the negotiators was available for comment, but the British Shipbuilders' statement said the three yards were without work and were expected to lose £4m between them in the present financial year.

Clelands was the only yard to be involved in serious negotiations for work, but it was for a small order which could only have brought employment for one sixth of the men and would have produced significant losses because "of under-recovery of overheads", British Shipbuilders said.

There was no prospect of new work in the reasonable future which would cut losses and cover overheads.

● Shop stewards at Scott Lithgow will meet today to discuss the next move in their fight to stop the yard's closure. They plan to take their campaign, aimed at saving 4,500 jobs, to businesses, factory gates and city centres across Scotland.

Three hundred men laid off at the yards on the lower Clyde last Friday are now on the fourth day of a "work-on".

The yard faces closure because of the cancellation by Britoil of its order for an overdue £88m oil rig.

The search for a buyer for the yard is continuing. One company, believed to be the Trafalgar House conglomerate, owners of the Cunard Shipping Line, is said to be showing particular interest.



Mr Michael Heseltine, visiting a Rapier site during his recent Falklands visit.

Benn campaign to be tailored for TV

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Wedgwood Benn's Chesterfield by-election campaign is expected to be the first tailored by the Labour Party to the demands of radio and television.

Labour's campaign organizers are set to break with the tradition established by Mr Morgan Phillips, a former party secretary, in the 1960s that priority should be given to the writing press and abandon the daily early morning press conference at which the candidate and other senior party figures hold a question and answer session.

Instead, media gatherings are expected to be organized at different locations in Chesterfield where the potential for good television pictures will be far greater than in the usually dull surroundings of the local Labour Party office.

It was being emphasized last night that such an arrangement would provide ample opportunities for questioning Mr Benn and was not designed to "squeeze out" newspaper journalists.

It was also said that there would be some press conferences attended by Mr Benn and shadow ministers but that, contrary to earlier suggestion, there would be no press conferences at which Mr Benn was not present.

It is denied that the new tactics, if agreed, are designed to protect Mr Benn or the party by preventing detailed questioning on policy issues, although in practice that may prove to be more difficult if there are fewer opportunities for concerted questioning.

Radioactive gas risk in home

Action may be needed to combat a radioactive gas, called Radon, that builds up naturally in some homes and can cause lung cancer if breathed over a long period, according to the National Radiological Protection Board.

The radioactive gas seeps into houses from the ground underneath or from building materials. However, a board spokesman said that there was no reason for panic.

He added: "This is not something that has suddenly arisen."

Yet in a report published by the board yesterday, it says: "Natural radiation doses are not always at levels of no concern. Some indoor exposures are high enough to suggest the implementation of control measures."

The gas is most common in granite areas because of the presence of uranium in the granite. High levels of the gas have been detected in some parts of Devon and Cornwall and the board is now conducting a national survey.

Sappers pulling out of Falklands

From Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, Port Stanley

One of the great features of British military activity in the Falkland Islands since their recapture from Argentina has been the surge of activity by the Royal Engineers in each of the last two South Atlantic summers.

Around September large numbers of corps members have travelled south to join colleagues who have spent the winter here to take advantage of the good weather for intensive building work.

At present there are about 1,200 sappers, making the largest army contingent on the islands.

Their tasks included repairing and extending the runway at Stanley airport, roadworks and battlefield clearance, and the construction of camps, power stations and sites for radar stations and Rapier ground-to-air missiles.

One estimate puts their effort since the end of the fighting at about 700,000 man-days. Explosives disposal experts are believed to have removed about 2,500,000 pieces of ordnance that were lying around the islands, and they have quarried about 400,000 tons of stone, some of it for road making.

Now most of that is to end. From April 1 responsibility for the construction work which the sappers have been doing will be taken over by the Property Services Agency, which is the normal arrangement in most areas where British military forces are stationed.

A step towards disengagement takes place today when ARC Construction becomes responsible for the operation of the quarry near Stanley Airport, which the sappers have been working for 18 months.

There are some qualms within the Army as to whether the agency can take over the construction efficiently in April, and there is a feeling that it is being dilatory in making known its arrangements for the changeover.

As the changes proceed, the sapper presence will be reduced gradually. From April it will be about 450 men, and by March, 1985, it will have fallen to 150, largely engaged in maintenance.

Colonel John Kitching, the Royal Engineers commanding officer in the Falklands, rates their experience there highly for the breadth of task it has provided. He says: "I cannot remember us having filled every part of our war role over a period of 18 months before".

● The Falklands conflict was a great boon to Nato, Dr Joseph Luns, its retiring secretary general, says in an interview in *Jane's Defence Weekly* published yesterday (the Press Association reports).

"If in Moscow the impression had become so certain that never, whatever the provocation or circumstances, never would you use force to redress blatant injustice, it would be very bad for West Berlin."

TUC looks at changes in strategy

By Our Labour Editor

Trade union leaders yesterday set in motion a fundamental review of the labour movement designed to win back the authority of the TUC and reverse the trend of falling membership.

The TUC General Council agreed to circulate a discussion paper on future strategy.

Introducing the documents, Mr Len Murray, said that out of the exercise would come a willingness to make changes in trade union structure that are needed to match changes in the pattern of industry.

Correction

In the final edition on Tuesday it was incorrectly stated that Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, Conservative MP for Wealden, had abstained in the vote on the rate support grant report. He voted with the Government.

Irish beer and petrol prices rise

From Richard Ford Dublin

The Irish Government yesterday introduced a cautious budget but increased the already high cost of drink, petrol and tobacco.

It also caused surprise by introducing value-added tax at 8 per cent on clothing, except for children under 10.

Social security benefits were increased by 7 per cent and the 25 per cent tax band eliminated, removing 15,000 low income earners from liability. The 35 per cent rate was widened.

Mr Alan Dukes, the Minister for Finance, promised reform of Ireland's tax system.

He said that the country was still in a difficult position and urged workers to keep income expectations at a realistic level, saying the government had made no provisions for pay rises in the public sector this year.

Times accused of racism by bishop

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Bishop of Birmingham, Dr Hugh Montefiore, has accused *The Times* of "thinly disguised racism" in criticizing the Queen's Christmas broadcast in a leading article.

Dr Montefiore said at a private function in Sutton Coldfield that the article had seriously misrepresented the Queen's remarks about redistribution of wealth.

Dr Montefiore later told the Press Association his address was also aimed at Mr Enoch Powell, MP for Down South, whose criticism of the Queen's message led to the article in *The Times*.

The Queen had merely asked for more technology to be used by poorer nations to relieve poverty, he said in the Sutton Coldfield speech.

He said: "She is the head of the Commonwealth, and if her critics do not like her definition of it they have not been able to come up with a better one."

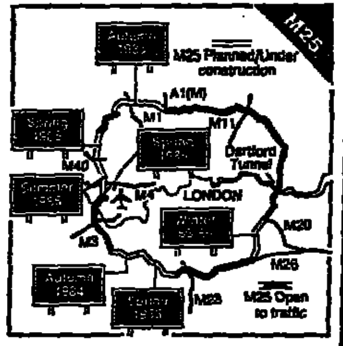
As for hearing less about an appropriate sentiment from the only person in four, and of no less than 47 sovereign independent countries?

"I have seldom been so angry! as I find myself at this prejudiced and ill-founded attack upon our beloved sovereign. It is thinly disguised racism."

Letters, page 13
Powell's view, page 12

Camera watch on new M25 section

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor



A battery of cameras will enable the police to watch every inch of the section of the M25 London orbital motorway through Epping Forest, which opened yesterday.

More than 40 overhead cameras, each capable of being swivelled, raised or lowered, or zoomed in to give close-up views of cars up to 1.5 miles away, are under the remote control of police staff at Chigwell who will receive pictures back by the latest fibre-optic cable.

The system will be extended to cover the 120-mile length of what seems certain to become Britain's busiest, as well as its most important, motorway. Overloading is predicted before the end of the decade.

The police emphasized at yesterday's opening by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, that the system will be used initially to monitor and control traffic, but admitted that it could be used for criminal detection, in the same way that cameras and videos are used to film bank robberies.

Other advance equipment on the new stretch, includes ice detectors, powerful fans that operate automatically if fumes build up in the two tunnels, and tunnel lights that dim or brighten automatically to match outside conditions and reduce driver dazzle.

With traffic expected to build up to 100,000 vehicles a day when the congestion, especially the Dartford Tunnel which takes the motorway under the Thames.

Mr Ridley gave no indication yesterday that tunnel tolls would be abolished to speed traffic; but one expert predicted that congestion would be so bad by the end of this year that the Government would be forced into doing so.

● The Freight Transport Association commented yesterday: "With no service areas on the M25 drivers face the prospect of an 82-mile drive between the Toddington services on the M1 and Farthing corner services on the M2." (the Press Association reports).

1981 Civil Service dispute

Intelligence efforts were imperilled

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, admitted yesterday that the five-month Civil service dispute in 1981 seriously imperilled Britain's intelligence efforts. He was speaking at a meeting in the Cabinet Office with the general secretaries of Whitehall unions.

The Government has never published its assessment of the damage inflicted by the dispute three years ago. However it led to instant and insistent pressure from the Reagan Administration that ministers intervene to restore the intelligence flow.

Under a secret 1946 treaty, Britain and the United States parcel out the world between them for the purposes of gathering signals and electronic intelligence. Its constant supply is deemed vital for the monitoring of the military and diplomatic intentions of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw pact countries.

The National Security Agency, the US equivalent of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham, which is to be de-unionized, funds a substantial proportion of the British effort in this expensive, capital intensive branch of espionage. It provides advanced equipment and seconded personnel for Cheltenham's world-wide network of listening-posts, known as the Composite Signals Organization. The product is pooled and analysed jointly.

On March 9, 1981, the first day of the dispute, Washington was incensed when a walkout of technicians closed the station on Ascension Island, the West's listening post in the South Atlantic, and the tracking station at Bude in Cornwall. Bude monitors the path of Soivet spy satellites as they pass over the eastern Atlantic and Western Europe, feeding its data to the immensely secret National Reconnaissance Office in Washington.

Sporadic disruption continued for five months. It affected routine intelligence gathering from Scarborough (which listens in to the North Sea and the Baltic), to the UK Sovereign Base in Cyprus and Little Sai Wan, the Hongkong station. The biannual exercise, Wintex '81, in which Nato nations simulated the transition to war with the Warsaw Pact was also affected.

Last year the very special intelligence relationship of the last 38 years was also strained with the conviction of the former GCHQ linguist, Geoffrey Prime, for spying for Russia.

At the insistence of the Reagan Administration, the British Cabinet was forced to approve the application of lie-detectors, or polygraphs, to members of the security and intelligence agencies. The Civil Service unions objected on civil libertarian and efficiency grounds, arguing that US experience showed polygraphs to be highly unreliable.

At a meeting with the unions on July 8, Sir Robert Armstrong insisted that the Government would press ahead with the introduction of a pilot scheme at Cheltenham. However, as the minutes of the meeting record: "He too would not find the use of the polygraph attractive. But the Security Commission [which reported on the Prime affair] said it was the one thing that might have deterred Prime."

The security service, MI5, has been very active at Cheltenham since the uncovering of Prime investigating persistent, although as yet unproved, suspicions that he had not acted alone. There have been indications recently that fears are growing that another official was involved and several individuals have been under scrutiny.

Whitehall sources indicate strongly yesterday that the Foreign Secretary's move to remove the GCHQ union's recognition had no connection with the aftermath of Prime or any other present security worries. The decision, stemmed solely from the assessment of the 1981 damage and the Government's determination that the vital raw material of British intelligence shall not be jeopordized again.

The agency employs 10,000 people at Cheltenham and around the world, some 60 per cent of whom belong to unions.

It now seems that the Cabinet has been contemplating such a move for three years. It was decided to wait until the 1983 election was past as it was "such a big step to take".

In the aftermath of Prime, there are unconfirmed reports that MI5 has uncovered a small Militant Tendency cell at Cheltenham. It is said to consist of about six people who belong to the Civil and Public Services Association and the Society of Civil and Public Servant.

MI5 have also mounted a special investigation into the funding of a one-day conference on polygraphs held at the Festival Hall in London on December 6. The Society of Civil and Public Servants, which organized it, has invited leading anti-polygraph authority from the United States, Professor David Lykken, a psychologist from the University of Minnesota to the conference.

Sir Robert Armstrong tried earlier this month to defuse union hostility to lie-detectors which are to be used at Cheltenham on an experimental basis from April 1. In a letter dated January 9 to the Council of Civil Unions, he wrote:

"There is no decision to proceed from that to a scheme for the definitive introduction of the polygraph in security screening. That decision remains entirely open, and will be for consideration when we are in a position to assess and analyse the results of the pilot study."

A union source said last night that opposition to the polygraph would have been likely to crumble eventually at Cheltenham if the Government had stood firm. With the loss of union recognition, he added, resistance to lie-detectors would be redoubled.

GCHQ is the successor organization to the Government Code and Cypher School which it had been estimated in the Second World War shortened the conflict by some 18 months by penetrating the most secret codes and cyphers of the German, Italian and Japanese armed forces.

Since 1945 its efforts have been concentrated on the Soviet Union and its satellites, although other nations such as Argentina, which is a prime target of the Ascension Island station because of the Falklands, constantly watched. It focuses mainly on military and diplomatic traffic, but since the 1970s there has been a growing effort to glean economic and financial information.

The unionization of GCHQ "has stood out a mile for years", one insider said yesterday, as MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, are strictly non-union. Other parts of the intelligence community do contain union members, however, who would be affected if the Cabinet's ban was extended to all security and intelligence area.

These include civilian members of the 900-strong Defence Intelligence Staff in the Ministry of Defence.

The case of Lieutenant-Colonel John Waite, a former member of GCHQ, who took his demotion on reaching the retiring age of 60 in 1979, to an industrial tribunal has seriously concerned the Cheltenham management. He won his case at the tribunal, but it was quashed in the Court of Appeal last year, a decision upheld by the House of Lord. Removal of GCHQ personnel from the remit of industrial tribunals was an important element in the Cabinet's decision to bar unions

Art funding report rejected

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Government has wholeheartedly rejected the core of a report from the education, science and arts select committee which proposed radical changes in support for the arts.

A White Paper published yesterday dismissed some of the select committee's key recommendations including the reduction or abolition of value-added tax on theatre tickets, a 20-year development programme, and the creation of a Ministry of Arts Heritage and Tourism with a seat in Cabinet.

The long-awaited government reply is silent on the select committee's call for the film industry to be reshaped with considerable public involvement. The White Paper says that the issue will be tackled by the Department of Trade and Industry review, which is due to report within weeks.

One of the committee's most controversial recommendations was a television levy to finance film production.

The White Paper defends the level of government expenditure.

The rejection of some of the select committee's more adventurous contentions is hardly likely to surprise art circles, who were somewhat surprised that the select committee report was so favourable.

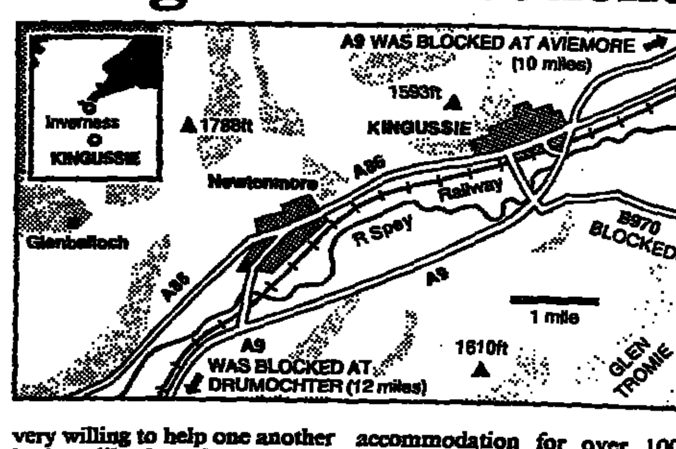
Public and Private Funding of the Arts. (Cmnd 9127, Stationery Office, £3.15).

Strike talks

Peace talks aimed at ending the two-week-old strike by Sogat '82 clerical workers at Times Newspapers took place last night under the auspices of the Newspaper Publishers Association.

Villagers emerge from weekend white-out

By Richard Dowden



The weekend blizzards that brought some of the worst weather in living memory to parts of Scotland also brought to the little village of Kingussie, south of Inverness, some 400 stranded travellers.

About 300 of them were from vehicles stuck on the Drumochter pass in the Highlands on the A9 and the rest were from three trains stranded at the station.

"It wasn't the snow itself but the most ferocious gale I have ever experienced," Mr Keith Macfarlane, Director of the Highland Roads and Transport Department in Inverness, said. "The winds were about 100 or 120 miles an hour, bringing in snow. It was a complete white out and we could not move from Saturday night until about 5am on Monday."

But the 1,000 inhabitants of Kingussie and its neighbouring village of Newtonmore were used to such intemperate climate. There was general agreement that the blizzard matched the terrible winter of 1947.

"People stock up early on from before Christmas" Mr Nield Murchies, the owner of the village grocery, said.

"They adapt, make their own bread and make do with dried milk if they run out. People are very willing to help one another in times like these."

Another local crofter stranded at Glenballoch, Mr Archie Anderson, brought essential food supplies by an RAF Puma helicopter from RAF Leuchars.

The problems for the rail travellers started at 6pm on Saturday when the Inverness to Edinburgh train had to wait while the points were changed at Dalwhinnie. Its brakes froze and then it would not move.

"They tried to get the Clansman coming up from London to push it but then that one stuck too," Mr Angus Frazer, a railwayman at Kingussie for the past 18 years, said. "Then the 17.35 to Glasgow got stuck and we had to find accommodation for over 100 people at 1am on Sunday.

Meanwhile in the Drumochter pass, 197 vehicles were stranded after a lorry jack-knifed and blocked the road. Two snow ploughs, two police Range-Rovers, and two mountain rescue vehicles also got stuck.

As a result more than 300 people trekked to Mr Sandy Anderson's small hunting lodge at Drumochter which usually accommodates nine. The gamekeeper said: "It was standing room only and there was no water.

"Luckily the electricity was working so we were able to keep warm. We just dished out all the food we had and everybody mucked in."

Although most people in the village were able to get to work, many of them at Aviemore holiday and ski centre and those in outlying areas have been snowed up. Mr Philip Cairney, and his wife, and son, aged 12, have been marooned in their cottage at Gaick up Glen Tromie since January 2.

The Kingussie High School with its 385 pupils closed for two days at the begining of the week because two-thirds of the pupils could not get to school.

What was the reaction? "What you would expect, jubilation," Mrs Irend Dallas, the school secretary, said.

The 80 men employed by the Roads and Transport Department, based at Kingussie, have been working about 12 to 16 hours a day trying to keep the roads clear.

The Drumochter pass was finally cleared yesterday but it remains closed until all the abandoned vehicles have been removed.

Kingussie's four postmen still arrive for work at 7am but so far this week the trains have not arrived until midday at the earliest so they only have a few hours of sunlight to deliver the mail. In any case, many of the roads are blocked.

هكذا من الأصل

Doctors blamed for putting elderly at risk with 'unnecessary' drugs

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Reporter

Family doctors are strongly critized by the Royal College of Physicians for the ways in which they prescribe drugs for elderly people. The college has exposed the vulnerability of the elderly to drugs, which may kill rather than cure, and calls for new safeguards among GPs, hospital staffs and the pharmaceutical industry.

In a report published yesterday, the college blames doctors for excessive and sometimes unnecessary prescribing, which leads to elderly patients having too many pills and other medicines. Many patients suffer an "unacceptably high prevalence of adverse drug reactions", many of which are fatal.

Dr Michael Denham, secretary of the colleges working party which compiled the report, said yesterday: "Large numbers of elderly people are going into hospital solely, or largely, due to the drugs they were taking.

"A number of these patients die and a number will nor fully recover from the side effects."

The report adds that in March, 1982 more than 10 million prescriptions were dispensed for the elderly. In 1980, elderly people were given twice as many prescriptions as the national average.

"Physicians are frequently placed in a situation in which they do not want to prescribe drugs but the patient expects medication", the report says. "At other times, they are aware that medication is not the most appropriate treatment for problems such as loneliness and poor housing, but feel that is the best thay can offer."

Doctors may also over prescribe because of pressure from drug companies and their travelling salesmen, the report says.

"The doctor's natural desire to treat the many disabilities found in the very old can result in many drugs being given simultaneously. Unfortunately, new therapy is often added piecemeal without considering, questioning, or reviewing the continued need for the earlier medication."

That produces "a daunting collection of tablets which the patient will attempt to take". Impaired compliance and adverse drug reactions and interactions are "natural sequels", the report adds.

"The greatest contribution to reducing incidence of adverse drug reactions in the elderly will be made by the doctor questioning the need for drugs and by stopping all unnecessary medication, otherwise polypharmacy will continue unchecked, and a competent individual may be turned into a confused, incontinent, bed-bound patient."

One of the results of over-prescribing is hoarding of medicines. A recent campaign in Glasgow for the return of unwanted drugs produces two and a quarter tons of medicines.

A similar campaign in Birmingham recovered more than 330,000 tablets and capsules; that was calculated to be only 3 per cent of the potential total.

Patients may use hoarded drugs for the wrong illness, with "disastrous effects", confuse new prescriptions with old, and risk illness because some drugs deteriorate with age.

Studies in hospitals and the community have shown that as many as 75 per cent of elderly patients make errors in using prescriptions, 25 per cent of which are potentially serious.

The report advises doctors to assess carefully whether patients need more medication, and to simplify the dose and drug regime.

They should try to discover if the patients have understood their explanations, and should give precise information to the pharmacist so medicines can be clearly and correctly labelled.

Patients should be advised of serious adverse drug effects, and doctors should arrange follow-up visits.



Three entertainers who are to perform in the gala: (left to right) Susannah York, Joanna Lumley and Liz Robertson

Switching roles to aid charity

A glittering array of stage talent, many more accustomed to the "legitimite" theatre explained yesterday how they feel about agreeing to perform in a musical charity gala at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London.

Michael Horden said he was terrified, Joan Greenwood hoped she would get by going "la la" and Barbara Leigh-Hunt hoped she could get lost in the second row of the chorus.

So far 104 performers have agreed to take part in the show on February 26 in aid of the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association. They include Judi Dench, Claire Bloom, Dorothy Tutin, Sir John Mills, John Hurt, Simon Ward and Leonard Rossiter.

Michael Horden, who is 72, is to sing a duet with Joan Plowright from the *Pajama Game* which involves "a bit of a sort of shuffle around". Christopher Reeve, who played the film Superman, is to perform a number about Elvis Presley that he had tried out in the United States.

IBM drive to sell computers to colleges

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

A multi-million pound programme to get IBM computers into British schools, college and universities was announced yesterday by the company, which said it was giving 92 of its personal computers to higher education institutions.

This initiative by the world's largest computer company, which is American owned, comes at a time when competition for the education computer market is intensifying. Last week, Commodore, an American company, announced that it was offering its equipment at a big discount to schools and colleges.

The most important strand of the IBM initiative is the setting up of an IBM Institute at a cost of more than £2m to work with higher education institutions to ensure that computers are introduced across the curriculum and not just in computer science.

The first project has already been established in the engineering department at Cambridge University to see how computers can aid the teaching of engineering. It is intended that this computer-oriented teaching will become an integral part of the university's Engineering Tripos as well as being used elsewhere.

The second strand of the programme, which will cost £400,000, is the donation of IBM personal computers – the best selling small business computer – to 92 selected universities, colleges and polytechnics.

Finally £800,000 will be spent on sponsoring projects in schools involving the use of IBM personal computers.

Announcing the plans, Sir Edwin Nixon, chairman and chief executive of IBM United Kingdom, said: "Our efforts reflect our belief that preparing students for the information society should be an educational priority."

Warning on cavity-wall insulation defects

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Damp and rot caused by the wrongly insulated cavity walls could be among the worst housing defects in the 1990s, the National House-Building Council says.

Mr Andrew Tait, the council's director-general, said yesterday that the council, an independent body representing building interests, including building societies and consumer organizations, would advise builders next month on the correct methods for cavity-wall insulation.

Insulation is increasing because builders are encouraged to include it by energy-saving regulations.

Timber-framed houses should not have insulation inserted because they are thermally efficient and need their cavities clear for weather protection and ventilation.

Cavity-wall insulation for traditional brick and block houses was perfectly satisfactory if properly done, but it demanded a high degree of skill, Mr Tait said.

New 'Henry V' to open Stratford season

By Our Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company unveiled plans yesterday for 12 new productions at Stratford and 15 productions at the Barbican during its 1984 season. The season at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre will begin with a new production of *Henry V*, with Kenneth Branagh in the title role. Roger Rees is to return to Stratford to play *Hamlet*, directed by Ron Daniels, and Anthony Sher will take the title role in *Richard III*.

The third Barbican season includes nine Stratford transfers and a revival of the 1940s farce, *The Happiest Days of Your Life*. *Measure for Measure* and *The Comedy of Errors* will b: the first two productions

Judi Dench will return to the RSC after an interval of four years in October when she takes the lead role in Brecht's *Mother Courage*.

● The company's award-winning production *Poppy* may not make its planned run on Broadway because of opposition by the United States actors' union.

Disabled man opts for civil marriage

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Mr Stephen Rigby, the handicapped former soldier who has received permission for a Roman Catholic church wedding after first being refused, said yesterday he was keeping to his decision to marry in a register office in March.

He was, however, not prepared to attack the church and wanted the church to recognize his marriage.

Despite what had been reported, he told *The Times*: "We are not bitter, we are not angry, we are not confused."

He was refused a church marriage by the Nottingham diocesan marriage tribunal on the ground of sexual impotence, but on Tuesday the Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham, Mgr James McGuinness, reversed the decision.

Mr Rigby said that as the church did not recognize civil marriages entered into by its members, the register office ceremony would change nothing in the church's eyes. However, he and his fiancée, Mrs Ilona Eradhun, had decided to ask the church to recognize their marriage later in the year.

Civil marriages can be formalized according to Canon Law and therefore deemed to be valid by the church. Mr Rigby said he was referring to this, although he and his fiancée had not yet discussed it with a priest.

"We shall approach the church and seek a Catholic marriage to make her happy", he added. "I think she deserves it."

Mrs Eradhun is a Roman Catholic, whose former civil marriage was dissolved.

More eat cheese at breakfast

By David Nicholson-Lord

The traditional British breakfast, criticized for its fat and cholesterol content, is now threatened by the spread of Continental cheese-eating habits.

A survey by Gallup yesterday revealed that 8 per cent of Britons now eat cheese for breakfast, with British cheese the most popular.

The results of the survey, published in the countryside magazine, *Out of Town*, were described as "staggering" by the British Bacon Bureau. A spokesman for Dairy Crest, Britain's biggest cheese producer, speculated that the breakfast bacon rasher might be doomed.

However, the bureau, which said bacon consumption rose marginally last year is launching a campaign next month to publicize the "great British breakfast".

It is being run in conjuction with TV-am. A 16-page colour brochure containing recipes and coupons will be delivered to 11 million homes. Michael Parkinson and others will extol the virtues of the British breakfast.

Mortgage rate cut ruled out

By Margaret Drummond

There is little prospect of a cut in the mortgage rate, before the late spring or early summer Mr Roy Cox, chief general manager of the Alliance Building Society, said yesterday in the Alliance's annual results.

Savings have continued to flow in recent months. In December, usually a poor month, the building societies took £800m. But lending is running at £1,000m a month and most societies consider their main task to meet mortgage demand.

● The Alliance and Royal Bank of Scotland will launch a joint "Banksave" account on Monday (the Press Association reports). Customers with a minimum current account of £500 will be paid interest at 7.25 per cent net by the building society.

BBC–ITV satellite gets backing

By Our Arts Correspondent

The Government is likely to encourage the setting up of a joint BBC – independent television direct broadcast satellite service if the two sides can agree details on the partnership within the next two weeks.

The talks, chaired by a senior civil servant, continued between BBC and independent television officials yesterday. The BBC had previous decided to postpone its satellite venture on ground of cost.

A joint satellite venture between the two companies would probably lead to one shared film service and two separate general television channels. All three would only be available to viewers through the payment of a premium. City finance is likely to be sought for the venture.

Hospital scheme abandoned

The British United Provident Association (Bupa) has withdrawn from a plan to build a £7m private hospital for the Oxford Regional Health Authority in the grounds of the John Radcliffe teaching hospital. It would have provided the region with 30 beds for specialist heart surgery, with another 30 for use by Bupa.

The region does not have a full heart surgery service and most patients are transfered to London for operations. It will now consider developing a cardiac surgery unit on its own.

Author charged with murder

Mrs Helen Charlotte Hough, an author of children's books and a social worker, appeared before Highbury magistrates in north London yesterday charged with murdering Mrs Anita Johnson Harding, aged 84, on November last year.

Mrs Hough, aged 59, of Ivor Street, Camden Town, north London, was granted bail on condition that she provided a surety of £5,000 and did no social work. Committee proceedings are scheduled for March 1.

Jury sent home

The jury in the Winchester Crown Court trial of Kathleen Calhaem, aged 57, were sent home yesterday while Mr Justice Stuart Smith heard defence submissions. Miss Calhaem, from Cheddar, Somerset, is accused of murdering Mrs Shirley Rendell, aged 46, of Yatton, near Bristol. The hearing will resume today.

Jacobs bows out

David Jacobs, presenter of the BBC radio programme *Any Questions?* is to leave the show in September, after 16 years as host. John Timpson, co-presenter of the *Today* programme will replace him, combining the two jobs.

Danish milk ban

Port health authorities at *Harwich*, Essex have rejected 500 litres of Danish long life milk, even though two identical consignments have been allowed in through Grimsby and North Shields, saying that it contained too much water.



Mr and Mrs Fewkes: "praying for Ben" yesterday.

Parents in transplant plea

The parents of a boy whose liver was used to save a boy aged 2 appealed yesterday for families to let doctors use organs for transplant.

Mr Darryl Fewkes, aged 32, and his wife Julie, aged 22, of Fenwick Close, Broxtowe, Nottingham, agreed last week to the liver of their son Matthew, aged 2, being used for a transplant when they realized he was going to die.

The boy was seriously ill after an operation to repair defects in his chest and lungs had failed.

His parents found out on Monday that the liver would go to Ben Hardwick, also aged 2, from Chessington, in Surrey.

He was facing death from a rare disease because doctors could not find a liver to transplant. His plight was featuered in *That's Life*, the BBC television's programme.

Yesterday he was making good progress at Addenbrooke's Hospital, in Cambridge.

Mrs Fewkes said that they made up their minds about the transplant very quickly.

"We are now praying for Ben. He is a very special boy to us, and we hope to go and see him eventually," she said.

PARLIAMENT January 25 1984

Communications staff lose right to join union

SECURITY

Staff of the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham are to be forbidden from belonging to a trade union unless such membership is approved by their director, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, announced in a statement in the Commons. However, they are to be paid £1,000 for the loss of rights they have hitherto enjoyed, he said.

The announcement was greeted with protests from Labour MPs and Mr Dennis Healey, chief Opposition on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the staff were being denied a right given to other civil servants involved in equally secret work.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said: As the House knows, the Employment Protection Acts contain provisions which enable the Government to except Crown employees from the application of the Acts. These provisions can be used only for the purpose of safeguarding national security, and reflect the acknowledged need for particularly sensitive functions of Government to be protected so far as possible from the risk of exposure or disruption.

Government Communications Headquarters is responsible for intelligence work of crucial importance to our national security. To be effective this work must be conducted secretly. Moreover, GCHQ must provide a service which can be relied on with confidence at all times. It is clear, therefore, that the conditions envisaged in the special provisions of the Employment Protection Acts exist in this case.

The House will wish to know that for these reasons, I have today signed certificates excepting GCHQ employees from the application of the relevant provision.

The certificates have immediate effect and new conditions of service are at the same time being introduced at GCHQ. Under these new conditions, staff will be permitted in future to belong only to a departmental staff association approved by their director.

The very special nature of the work of GCHQ will be apparent from what I have said. The action which I have taken stems directly from that. The Government fully [illegible] the right of civil servants to [illegible] of a trade union, and it is only the special nature of the work of the GCHQ which has led us to take these measures.

Howe: We need stability and reliability in service.

I can assure the House therefore that it is not our intention to introduce similar measures outside the field of security and intelligence.

GCHQ staff are being informed of these measures this afternoon. Those who decide to remain at GCHQ will each receive a payment of £1,000 in recognition of the fact that certain rights which they have hitherto enjoyed are being withdrawn from them in the interests of national security.

Those who do not wish to continue to serve at GCHQ will be offered the opportunity of seeking a transfer to another part of the Civil Service.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs: I find the statement both disturbing and perplexing. I know something of the GCHQ from my six years as Defence Secretary and know they perform an indispensible service to the nation by providing intelligence with an efficiency and dedication that is the envy of the world.

It is not like some other branches of the security services which are small bodies of professionals, it is an industrial enterprise employing thousands of skilled technicians.

The very few offences against security which have bee committed by members of GCHQ have been dealt with under the law, as the prime case recently, but no industrial action, so far as I am aware, has been taken by members for the last three years.

The House must be told why the Government decided after all these years to deprive employees of GCHQ of rights enjoyed by civil servants in the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office who are doing work of national security importance too.

This is depriving them of rights to industrial organization which is enjoyed by the Royal Ordnance Factories and in private factories like Vickers and Plessey, which are doing work involving security central to the nation's security.

What consultation did he have before taking this decision, with the elected representatives of the GCHQ? Did he discuss this decision with the Security Commission which, although it was not set up specifically to deal with broad questions of this nature, is composed of persons who have deep and long standing knowledge of the work of GCHQ and whose impartiality would be accepted by both sides of the House?

This is a very grave decision he has announced to the House. I would appeal to him not to implement that decision before he has consulted the representatives of the employees concerned and also to ask the Security Commission for an objective judgment.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The Security Commission were not consulted on this matter; it is not a matter for them. They are normally involved only in cases when there has been a breach of security. Nor were there consultations with the trade unions at the GCHQ. It would not have been appropriate in a matter of this kind.

In parallel with this announcement letters are today being sent to all GCHQ staff, and non-industrial Civil Service trade unionists are bieng informed this afternoon.

I appreciate the importance of the matter and for that reason there has been long and careful consideration of, for example, the need to avoid a repetition of the industrial action which took place in the three years 1979 to 1981 which faces staff doing this kind of work with severely conflicting loyalties.

Bearing in mind the need for confidence in the stability and reliability of the service, the Government concluded it was right to take this measure.

I remind the House that the provisions which I have invoked are already applied to other aspects of the security service and are bound in statutes passed by the last Labour Government of which Mr Healey was a member.

Mr Healey: The two branches of the security services which are disallowed normal industrial activity under the Act are MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service, both small bodies of professional men. But this is a completely different type of enterprise both in terms of its importance to national security and the secrecy of its work.

It does not differ essentially from the Foreign Secretary's private office, from civil servants in the Ministry of Defence, from the many industrial employees on the Royal Ordnance factories, or the private arms manufacturers, all of which are doing work vital to national security and which have the right to industrial organization and they have not abused it any more than members of the GCHQ.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The function of the GCHQ involves safeguarding our own military communications and provision of intelligence in accordance with requirements laid down by the government in support of its defence and foreign policy. We believe confidence in the stability of the service and its freedom from interruption are factors of the highest importance and having considered them the Government came to the conclusion it did.



Skinner: What evidence is there against trade unions.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP (Plymouth, Devonport): He owes the House a greater explanation of what his objectives are. If his objective is to avoid strike action in this establishment, which is desirable, would that not be better designed by negotiating a non-strike agreement? There is a precedent in the case of gas and electricity workers who are members of Unions bound by a non-strike agreement.

If he wants to exclude people from the option of the complaints and industrial tribunal because of anxiety over evidence which may relate to security, that could be done by invoking article 24.

I understand his motives but he has not found a way of carrying conviction with the 5,000 people employed in the establishment.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The reason first of all is the need, in order to secure freedom from serious disruption, to remove the risk of strike action. A non-strike agreement such as he suggests does not provide exemption from an industrial tribunal.

Mr Dennis Skinner: All fascists throughout the ages have used the cloak of national security and national interest in order to chip away at hard-won liberties and freedoms, especially among the trade unions.

What evidence is there that those who belong to trade unions are more likely to hinder national interest than those that come from Eton and Harrow and the belly of the establishment? How many shop stewards have betrayed the country? Almost without exception, every single one of those that have done so have come from the classes represented by those on the Conservative benches.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: It is a measure designed to uphold the very freedoms that would be threatened by fascism, not least fascism of a socialist kind. The evidence which justifies this measure is the evidence which convinced the last Labour Government of the need to include these measures in the employment protection legislation.

Later Dr Owen unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate on the decision. He said it affected the fundamental liberties of well over 5,000 citizens.

Alliance fails to establish body to review Act

TERRORISM

[illegible] Secretary should appoint [illegible] commission to monitor the operation of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill and to make an annual report to Parliament on its working and effect, Mr Alexander Carlile (Montgomery, L) said in moving a Liberal-SDP Alliance new clause to the Bill during its report stage in the Commons.

He said they should bear in mind that there was an absence of any form of legal redress for those made the subject of exclusion orders.

Lord Jellicoe had said after his study of the working of the law that the power to exclude should remain available to the Home Secretary in extreme cases, but the possibility of abolishing it should be kept under regular review, without prejudice to the Act's other powers.

A scrutiny commission, comprising three people with suitable qualifications and experience, would be able, upon a subjective examination of each of the cases involved, to tell the House whether it really was necessary for a resolution to be passed affirming the continuation of this legislation.

It would be as near to a judicial procedure as was reasonable in the circumstances of legislation of this sort.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP) said they did not need the assistance of an outside commission

The Home Secretary should not accept the new clause, but should use his power to lay before the House not one statutory instrument renewing the whole Act but several instruments which would then enable the House to address itself seperately to the merits of different parts of the Act.

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, said it should be for the Secretary of State of the day to decide, when the time for reenactment approached, how best to respond to Lord Jellicoe's general recommendation about the form that such a review should take. In any case, the Bill dealt with much more than exclusion. The clause was rejected by 228 votes to 19 – Government majority, 209.

Heating assistance sought

[illegible] had struck Scotland and [illegible] of England were [illegible] (Dundee East [illegible]) given leave to [illegible] provide for more [illegible] ances reflecting the [illegible] of domestic heating [illegible] of the country.

He said that [illegible] social security arrangements [illegible] ances paid to cover [illegible] were the same whether [illegible] lived in Cornwall or Caithness.

There was hard scientific evidence to prove that the further north and east one went from the [illegible] of England the colder [illegible] temperature. The cost of domestic heating rose [illegible] in Glasgow would [illegible] fuel to [illegible] than [illegible].

Howe seeks links with Argentine

FOREIGN OFFICE

Britain is holding no discussions with Argentina at present, but the Government has made clear its wish to restore normal bilateral relations, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said during Commons questions.

He added that Britain would not enter into talks about the transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to Argentina.

Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C): Would he not agree that we are in a position now where, in victory, we can be magnanimous [illegible] MPs on both sides of the House are disappointed in the lack of a positive response to Argentina.

Does he agree that we should seek commercial normalization at the very least, as soon as possible and at least give some encouraging noises to the Argentine Government that we welcome their participation.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I entirely take the force of the point he makes. The message which the Prime Minister sent to President Alfonsin after the election of the democratic government in Argentina was intended to pave the way towards more normal relationships.

It is clearly right for us to seek to do so along the lines suggested by seeking, for example, to begin improving commercial relationships between the countries.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab): Is this not the right opportunity to explore with the Argentine Government all aspects of the future of the Falklands? Would the Foreign Secretary not agree that what has come out in the news about £7m of public money being spent for the erection of just 54 pre-fabricated houses in the Falklands is just one example of the growing and formidable price this country is paying for the present Government's policies towards the Falklands?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I think he overlooks the fact that the Government has made clear that there is no intention of embarking upon negotiations about sovereignty and that is compatible with everything we have said and done about the Falklands so far.

In those circumstances, it is right and proper for us to be taking prudent steps which are necessary to secure the defence of the islands and their development. It is in that context that the houses to which he referred were urgently needed by way of replacement. The final cost of supply and erection was high for a number of reasons, but the original contract price had been adhered to.



Winnick: Formidable price of Government policy.

Of course I agree that we should now be looking for ways of improving our relationships with the Argentine Government and be doing that by concentrating [illegible] on those areas where practical steps towards agreement are more likely to be possible at an early [illegible].

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea [illegible]): Should not the [illegible] diplomatic relations be a [illegible] first step from which better relations generally with that country will follow?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: It would not be right yet to contemplate the establishment of diplomatic relations unless and until there had been a declaration by the Argentine of her willingness to end the state of hostilities.

In the absence of such a declaration, that does not rule out the wisdom of looking for ways of improving our relations, starting in the areas most likely to be practible, probably with commercial matters.

Mr David Atkinson (Bournemouth East, C): Is not the time right for the Government to renew its offer to the Argentine Government to facilitate arrangements for the Argentine bereaved to visit the graves on the Falkland Islands.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Yes, I am glad of this opportunity to do that. Since the summer of 1982 we have made clear on a number of occasions through the International Red Cross that we are prepared to facilitate first of all repatriation of the Argentine dead, and that offer remains open and we will place no obstacle in the way of a visit of the kind described by Mr Atkinson by a bona fide group of relatives prepared to come under arrangements made by the International Red Cross.

Mr Robert Banks (Harrogate, C): Bearing in mind the Secretary General of the United Nations is charged with the task of seeking to bring talks [illegible] between ourselves and the Argentine Government, does he agree this might be an appropriate moment to make our position known to the Secretary General to see whether a dialogue could not be initiated.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I think the Secretary General has already had our position made plain to him. It seems to me the right way to set about this is by starting to seek relations throught the mediation of the protecting powers and moving from that to try and establish a normal pattern of business between the two countries.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman [illegible] Falklands, according to the Government's own figures, is costing £2m a year for the next three years for every family of Falklanders, and much of that money is wasted, as we have seen in the cost of these houses, will the Government show the same readiness to meeet the democratic needs of the Argentine half way as it has already in meeting the Communist leader of the Soviet Union half way, and undertake negotiations with the democratic government of Argentina about the future of the Falklands without pre conditions, as it has already undertaken negotiations with the Communist government of China about the future of the six million people in Hongkong?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The parallel he attempted to draw at the end of his question is characteristically inappropriate.

But of course it is sensible for us to be willing to seek better relationships with the democratic government in the Argentine. We have welcomed their election. I think we must invite them also to have some respect for the rights of the people who live in the Falkland Islands to self-determination.

Pressure on Russia over human rights

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was challenged in the Commons on his approach to abuses of human rights in the Soviet Union.

During questions about Russia's human rights obligations under the Helsinki Agreements, Mr Donald Anderson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said: We only wish he would show that same zeal and that same enthusiasm in other areas like Chile, for example, where this Government abstained recently in the United Nations on the human rights issue.

Does he recognize the close correlation between the severity of the cold war and the tightening of the screws in the Soviet Union [illegible] dissidents [illegible] to avoid Star Wars cold war rhetoric and get on with the business of detente.

He said, however, that there was a bipartisan approach on human rights and the Opposition joined the Government in its condemnation of human rights abuses in Russia.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The Government takes every opportunity appropriate to raise questions of human rights.

I do not believe one can see any simple connexion between the atmosphere internationally and the way the Russians conduct themselves in these affairs. I wish it was as simple as that.

Jewish emigration was running at more than 50,000 in 1979 but was below 3,000 in 1982. It is important to go on pressing the Russians for an improvement in their behaviour and for an improvement in the whole international atmosphere towards dialogue between both sides of the Iron Curtain.

He had said earlier that there was no evidence of any change in the Soviet Government's human rights record since the Madrid Conference. But Britain and her allies and partners would continue to [illegible] Soviet authorities' attention to their commitments undertaken at Helsinki and Madrid.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C): Our delegation at Madrid made constructive protests to the Soviet representatives against the continued harassment of Soviet citizens who bravely tried to monitor infringements of the Helsinki Accords by their government.

Further representations should be made to the Russians on the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, the brave Swede, who saved the lives of 100,000 Jews from the Nazis and was imprisoned by the Soviets who have declined to say if he is alive or dead.

The world is owed an explanation. That man's family is owed an explanation on what has happened to him.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Our delegation at Madrid raised examples of individual cases of that kind. The case of Mr Wallenberg was raised most recently by Mr Malcolm Rifkind when he saw the deputy foreign minister in Moscow [illegible] Trent [illegible] that he had raised the matter in [illegible] terms and cited general examples with Mr Gromyko in Madrid in September and in Stockholm last week. In Stockholm he had taken examples of people where the case was more serious because of suffering of illness and cases of Sakharov and [illegible].

Mr [illegible] asked what was the difference, apart from colour, between a white government which persecuted and oppressed black people and a white government which oppressed and persecuted white people. The Gleneagles Agreement, Helsinki and the human rights charter applied equally and all should try to adhere to it.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said [illegible] questions [illegible] were [illegible] apply double standards [illegible] human rights anywhere [illegible].

[illegible]

Mr [illegible] Baker (Blackpool [illegible]) [illegible] the Russians had [illegible] Helsinki treaty. It said that respect for human rights was an essential factor for peace.

When Russians declare their love of peace (he said) it would be worthwhile quietly pointing this out from time to time.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I agree. I made this point in the House yesterday and in Stockholm to Mr Gromyko – that a country's record on human rights was bound to affect people's perception of that country's disposition towards peace and international relationships.

Urgent need for EEC budget agreement

[illegible] Commonwealth [illegible] answering Commons questions about the EEC.

He began by [illegible] expects [illegible] Foreign [illegible] February 20 and 21. I attended [illegible] the first Foreign [illegible] under the French presidency on [illegible]. The French Foreign Minister said it was the aim of the presidency to reach agreement on the main issues of the post-Stuttgart negotiations at the March European Council.

The negotiations (he went on) will be carried forward in a series of bilateral discussions at a special meeting of foreign ministers on February 18 to 19 and in the Foreign Affairs Council as necessary. Specialist councils will handle those issues which fall directly to them.

I stressed the need (he added) to make substantial progress in [illegible] agreement by [illegible] the need for [illegible] done on the [illegible] other [illegible] ances, [illegible] of [illegible] issues [illegible] detail [illegible] so [illegible] heads of [illegible] all [illegible] measures [illegible].

Mr [illegible] he [illegible] there is growing [illegible] country at the slow progress [illegible] made on the solution of the [illegible] and [illegible] manoeuvre [illegible] by growing [illegible] benches [illegible] solution of the budget [illegible] increase in own resources.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I have made plain throughout the discussions which have been going on since Stuttgart [illegible] a [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] all impatient [illegible] of the [illegible] Community [illegible] on a wider range of [illegible] remains [illegible] as at [illegible] question of whether or [illegible] be an increase in [illegible] connected with the [illegible] were laid down that there [illegible] effective control of agricultural and other spending and equitable [illegible] arrangements. There can be no increase in own resources until [illegible] requirements are met.

Mr Michael Fallon (Darlington, C): There should be a clearer distinction between the Council's legislative and [illegible] functions. Could he [illegible] completion of the internal market and the elimination of non-tariff barriers.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: [illegible] progress [illegible] to establish [illegible] market by way of [illegible] barriers. It is important [illegible] should be pressing ahead [illegible] policies in that respect, but [illegible] to be policies which laid the foundation of the original concept of one market.

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend East, C): Those who supported the Government last week on some unpopular but necessary measures to cut expenditure and stop waste [illegible] down if, in trying [illegible] problems, the [illegible] to vast additional [illegible] and spending [illegible] into [illegible] nonsenses [illegible] Tunnel [illegible].

[illegible] that the Government [illegible] insistence on [illegible] agricultural and other [illegible] proper financing of the Community before increased own resources. He was sceptical about the Channel Tunnel and would have to look at a proposal carefully before regarding [illegible] enthusiasm.

[illegible] Opposition spokes[illegible] Community [illegible] Secretary try [illegible] urgency [illegible] between the [illegible] and [illegible] they [illegible] a state of [illegible], to use his own words, which some think more apt a description of the Foreign Office.

Will he admit that there is no serious prospect of his getting the kind of agreement which would justify him coming to the House and asking us to vote more tax resources for the spendthrift Community?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: At the Council I stressed the need for substantial progress in March and emphasised the need for detailed work to be done.

Throughout [illegible] and other [illegible] the Prime Minister [illegible] all we can to emphasise the sense of urgency needed.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on White [illegible] developments in the EEC [illegible] Cards: (3): [illegible] (Stock [illegible] Cable [illegible] committee, [illegible]

Westminster boys will learn how to make a profit

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Sixth formers at Westminster School in London will shortly have the chance to study entrepreneurship, or how to make a profit, in a course which will combine economic theory with contact with entrepreneurs and their problems.

The course, which will begin in the autumn, has been developed by Mr Daniel Jeffreys, aged 28, Westminster's new head of economics, partly in response to pressure from parents of boys at the school, such as Mr Roland (Tiny) Rowland and Mr Tim O'Hara. It is also just the kind of course which Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, would like to see in schools.

Called entrepreneurial studies, it will be an optional course for the sixth form, probably mostly for those taking A level economics, and will not be examined. Mr Jeffreys, who went to Westminster last year from Charterhouse, said that his lessons on the theory of profit-making would alternate with talks with the entrepreneurs.

The subject would also give sstudents the opportunity to do some work for companies and enable those institutions to make contact with bright young people, he explained. That might mean that the high-fliers would decide to go into business rather than into the more orthodox professions, the Civil Service and academe.

The school has already arranged to do a study for [illegible] McLintock, the accountancy firm, on the relationship between inflation and innovation. In return McLintock will help Westminster pupils who, for example, want to spend their year between school and university with a company. Mr Jeffreys said: "We are trying to market the services of the department as well as trying to make the students see themselves as economists. In order to do that we have got to give them material, not just for A level, but because McLintock want certain information in a month's time and for a risk-taking venture."

A former comprehensive school teacher who was educated at Bristol University, Mr Jeffreys said that public schools such as Westminster enabled curriculum innovation which there simply was not time in the state sector.

[illegible] students [illegible] confronting [illegible] with people [illegible] recommendations [illegible] ists. I chose to do it this way because I wanted them to become theorists but because the theoretical approach gives them something to hang on to when confronted with practical problems. It gives them something to defend as much as anything else."

£5,000 bill for school's carol copies

An education authority is to pay £5,000 "in full and final settlement" of claims by music publishers arising from illegal photocopying of Christmas carols from a hymn book.

Northumberland County Council and Mr Terry Atkinson, director of music at the Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham, admitted infringement of copyright.

By consent, Mr Justice Goulding gave judgment for Novello & Company, Boosey & Hawkes Publishers and the Oxford University Press, suing on their own behalf and for all members of the Music Publishers' Association.

The council has agreed to destroy all infringing copies of any musical work or published edition in which the copyright is owned by the association.

Actor fined for smashing door

Sean Arnold, who plays [illegible] inspector [illegible] was [illegible] to pay [illegible] vestry [illegible] Arnold, aged 42, of Islington, north-east London, he told South Western magistrates that his relationship with Miss Celia Imrie, an actress, had become obsessive and that he had had a few drinks.





The art of war: An exhibit at the Gillian Jason Gallery. (Photograph Suresh Karadia).

Forgotten portraits of war on show

[illegible] war [illegible] is no question [illegible] was a miracle for the artists involved, it gave us a sense of purpose."

Mr Leonard Rosoman, a Royal Academician who spent two years at the end of the last war as a titular captain in the Royal Marines, who makes the admission rather reluctantly (David Hewson writes).

But the experience of war was inspiring for him and 29 other artists commissioned into the Armed Forces to record the conflict, at an exhibition which opened in London yesterday will show.

The collection has been assembled over several years by the gallery owner, Mrs Gillian Jason, who has uncovered 60 new works, many of which had been forgotten by their creators and descendants. Most of the output of the 30 official war artists is now in the hands of the Imperial War Museum, but Mrs Jason has put together several items which had never been handed over.

Mr Rosoman, an art teacher before the war, was drafted into the fire service along with many other painters. He was given the rank of captain in 1943 and spent the rest of the war with the Pacific Fleet on board HMS Formidable.

Artists Under The Flag, Gillian Jason Gallery, 42 Inverness Street, London NW1, until February 24.

Deadline of Rayner reviews criticized

[illegible] of Mrs Thatcher's [illegible] strategy [illegible] senior [illegible] for [illegible].

FDA News, the monthly journal of the First Division Association, the top officials' union, published a set of anonymous quotes from Rayner scrutineers which claim that the 90-day limit for their completion produces meant rushed and superficial work and that in some cases pressure has been put on investigating officers to recommend cuts.

The association says: "This is a cause for concern. It serves to undermine confidence in the Rayner system, which comes to be seen as a weapon in the cuts armoury rather than a tool to improve Civil Service efficiency and effectiveness".

Sir Robin Ibbs, who succeeded Lord Rayner last year as head of the Prime Minister's Efficiency Unit, issued a statement yesterday welcoming the positive spirit of the FDA survey and its general endorsement of the scrutiny system.

The purpose of scrutinies, Sir Robin [illegible] not [illegible] deadline was [illegible] sense of [illegible] showed [illegible] "It is obviously right to look for economy; that is good sense. But it is not all. We are dealing here with value-for-money and that means looking at cost, at output and service to the citizen".

The FDA survey noted "there was no real criticism of the Rayner principle" among its members. But it reproduced some frank criticisms.

Its Customs and Excise branch, for example, said the 90-day limit was inflexible and made the scrutiny team more liable to "spoonfeeding" by officials whose work they were investigating.

One civil servant who had worked as a scrutineer spoke of subtle pressure put on him by his superiors to find savings. He found the Management and Personnel Office, which is responsible for administrative economies, "more bullying though helpful in many respects.

PSA reforms challenged

Radical proposals for the reorganization of the Government's Property Services Agency (PSA) will cost more than double the planned £12m, create rather than cut jobs, and cause two years of turmoil, according to six Civil Service unions.

The unions will today meet Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, to present a critique of the reorganization which was prepared by Mr Montague Alfred, the agency chief executive

The proposals involve dividing the agency into two,

AUSTIN ROVER

ROVER VANDEN PLAS. BRED TO BE THE MOST LUXURIOUS ROVER ON THE ROAD.

Close the door of a Rover Vanden Plas and enter a world of your own.

A world of peace, sophistication and out-and-out luxury. Like supple Connolly leather clad seats to support you.

Civilised refinements to enjoy along the way include burr walnut fascia, deep pile carpets, a stereo radio cassette, cruise control and a trip computer.

Long journey or short, you'll marvel at the silent, smooth powerful performance of the legendary all-alloy Rover V8 engine. And therefore it comes as no surprise that Rover was the outright winner of the 1983 RAC British Saloon Car Championship. Rover Vanden Plas. The ultimate in Rover luxury.

ROVER
Vanden Plas
£14,179
DRIVING IS BELIEVING

VANDEN PLAS

ROVER: 1983 BRITISH SALOON CAR CHAMPION*

Price correct at time of going to press, excludes number plates and delivery. The Rover range starts at £8,098. *Rover Vitesse: Winner of the 1983 RAC British Saloon Car Championship and Manufacturer's Title. Race results subject to official confirmation.

Israelis unite to condemn Bonn's Saudi deal as history haunts Kohl visit

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

At a time of bitter political polarization in Israel, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit has united left and right for the first time in years in denunciation of German plans to sell sophisticated heavy weaponry to Saudi Arabia.

The emotive campaign to persuade Bonn to alter its stance on the proposed arms package has become the focal point of the six-day visit. As a result, it is likely to be the yardstick on which its sucess will be judged by many Israelis, including those of the post-Holocaust generation.

The 80 German reporters accompanying Dr Kohl have been treated to the rare sight of government and opposition politicians, usually at loggerheads over the economic crisis, united in an appeal, based on Germany's moral obligations arising out of the slaughter of six million Jews.

In articles printed side by side in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post*, two political enemies, Mr Ze'ev Chafets of the ruling Likud, a former director of the Government press office, and Mr Abba Eban, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, argued the same case.

"Only a clear statement by Chancellor Kohl that, despite the economic temptation, he is morally bound not to sell guns to Israeli's enemies, will suffice," Mr Chafets said. "Anything less will mark his trip to Jerusalem as a cynical charade, and his visit to Yad Vashem (the Holocaust memorial) as a shameful and ugly photo opportunity."

Mr Eban, the politician who negotiated the establishment of diplomatic relations with Bonn two decades ago, argued that the proposed sale would be seen as an interruption in the German-Jewish dialogue. "Seldom has a nation had an opportunity to win higher satisfaction by a smaller renunciation than that which the German leadership enjoys today," he said.

In the Knesset, Dr Kohl yesterday met a delegation of 13 Jewish Deputies from the Likud and Labour opposition. Each of the Israeli speakers emphasized the need for the German Government to drop its plans to sell to the Saudis.

Mr Yehuda Ben-Meir, the former Deputy Foreign Minister, said afterwards: "All the members, irrespective of party affiliation, expressed the seriousness, from the moral and political point of view, if the sale went ahead. We emphasized the dangers to Israeli-German relations if German arms were once again aimed against Jewish boys with the intention of killing them."

Although diplomats believe plans for the sale are well-advanced, Mr Ben-Meir said Dr Kohl had told the group no decision had been made. He was also reported to have pointed out that other countries, like America, had much larger arms commitments to Saudi Arabia.

Throughout the second day of the visit, deliberate reminders of the Holocaust continued to dog the German party at every stage of its hectic programme. In the Knesset, one Deputy waved a large yellow star as Dr Kohl watched from the public gallery. A number of others refused to take their seats

Mr Menachem Hacohen, the Labour backbencher who waved the replica of the Nazi star, also voiced a biblical protest at Dr Kohl's presence.

Against this emotional background, the Chancellor yesterday again met Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, who rejected all Dr Kohl's suggestions for progress in the deadlocked Middle East peace process.

Dr Kohl had suggested the EEC's Venice Declaration, with its mention of Palestinian self-determination, the Reagan plan and the Arab Fez plan as possible ways forward. But an Israeli official said Mr Shamir had dismissed all three as non-starters, offering instead the Camp David agreement as the only viable avenue to peace.

Mr Shamir told Dr Kohl that the plans mentioned in his strongly-worded speech on Tuesday were "foreign to the Arab ideas" which Israel rejected. Officials denied that the fundamental disagreement over peace in the Middle East had upset the atmosphere of the talks.

Shamir survives

Mr Shamir's fragile Government survived a no-confidence motion last night after a stormy debate in the Knesset. The Opposition motion was defeated by 62 votes to 56 with one abstention.

When the ethnic Tami Party threatened to quit the coalition over budget cuts, Mr Shamir cancelled a meeting with Chancellor Kohl to consult hastily with coalition partners, including the Tami leader, Mr Aharon Abuhatzeira. Minutes before the vote, Mr Abuhatzeira announced he had gained the pledges he was seeking.

Mitterrand scolds his rebellious farmers

Rebellious French farmers yesterday continued their acts of sabotage such as blocking trains as President Mitterrand again warned them that violence would not be tolerated (AFP reports).

The crowd of train travellers pictured above near Rennes in Brittany had to get out and walk yesterday after farmers blocked rail lines with lorries in protest at lower prices and transportation costs.

M Mitterrand was reviewing French agriculture at the weekly Cabinet meeting in Paris. "Either you are out of the Common Market or your are inside, and everyone has to accept the Community rules," he said. "It is for the farmers and their leaders to demonstrate this, and not to pretend that we can settle the problems on their own.

"To convey that the French Goverment on its own can end monetary compensatory amounts (MCA's) is untrue and absurb, and those who spread such illusions lack civic spirit and courage

"Overall, and the Farmers' leaders know it, the Common Market has been beneficial for French farming, even if not all categories have gained in the same way."

Argentina urged to hold ex-rulers

Buenos Aires (Reuter) – A presidential commision inquiring into the fate of thousands of missing people has urged the government to stop former military rulers and high-ranking officials leaving Argentina.

The commission's appeal applies to Presidents and members of the military Juntas that ruled Argentina from 1976 until democracy was restored in December. It also wants the ban to include interior ministers and military commanders of that period.

The 10-member commission said that the testimony of the former rulers could be decisive in discovering the fate of thousands of people who vanished during the "dirty war" in the 1970's.

French protest at Sun jokes

Paris – Some 30 French trainee journalists occupied the British Consulate in Bordeaux yesterday to protest against an alleged anti-French campaign in *The Sun*.

They left peacefully nearly an hour later after consul officials had summoned the police. The British newspaper has been running a competition for the best French jokes.

Korchnoi ahead

Amsterdam (Reuter) – Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland went into a ½pt lead over Soviet grandmaster Aleksandr Belyavski in the Hoogovens chess tournament, beating Pedrag Nikolic (Yugoslavia) in an adjourned ninth round game. Belyavski drew with Sweden's Ulf Andersson. Tony Miles (Britain) beat John Van Der Wiel (Holland).

Standings: 1, Korchnoi 7pts; 2, Belyavski 6.5pts; 3, Miles, Nikolic and Van Der Wiel 5pts; 6, Huboer, Andersson, Adorjan, Ree, Tukmakov 4.5pts

Editor freed

Paris – M Jean Durieux, the deputy editor of *Paris Match* who was jailed last Thursday because he refused to reveal his sources in connexion with a case involving a theft from police archives, has been released on 50,000 franc (£4,000) bail on the orders of the Paris Court of Appeal.

Off the menu

Hongkong (Reuter) – A specially chartered lorry ferried 16 endangered animals including a python and eagle, saved from the tables of Hongkong's gourmet restaurants, back across the border into China yesterday. Most were destined for restaurants illegally specializing in exotic dishes such as monkey brains and bear paws.

Death plunge

Rio de Janeiro (AFP) – At least nine people were killed when a bus carrying militant members of the opposition Democratic Labour Party plunged into a ravine on the São Paulo road just outside here.

Women freed

Berlin (Reuter) – Two members of an East German "Women for Peace" group, jailed on December 12 after meeting a Western disarmament campaigner have been freed, friends said. They are Ulrike Poppe and Baerbel Bohley.

Warsaw order

Warsaw – A court here has ordered the local prosecutor's office to reopen its investigation into the death of Grzegorz Przemyk, the 18-year-old student who died last May of internal injuries after allegedly being beaten while in police custody.

Man posted

Sydney (Reuter) – Mr Andrew Harper, celebrating his stag night, was neatly bound and wrapped, with stamps stuck on his feet and posted down a chute at Sydney's main post office. Police were called to the rescue.

Only 55 days left to save EEC from financial collapse

From Ian Murray, Brussels

There are only 55 days left, including weekends and holidays, to save the EEC from collapse. That is the pessimistic view of a growing number of Brussels diplomats who are becoming increasingly alarmed at the very slow pace of negotiations since France took over the presidency of the Council of Ministers at the start of the year.

Britain is particularly anxious to inject more urgency into the snail-pace bargaining.

The agricultural ministers, who have the most technical and difficult role, have yet to reopen their dossiers, which were shut at the Athens summit more than six weeks ago. Like the foreign ministers, who met for six hours this week for their first session of this year, they have done little more than discuss procedures and timetables.

Those timetables are beginning to look hopelessly inadequate. Both sets of ministers have only three scheduled meetings before the European summit in Brussels on March 19 and, if past form is anything to go by, they will spend little more than a day actually working on the dossiers on each occasion.

President Mitterrand began his series of informal talks by seeing Mrs Margaret Thatcher last Monday, but absolutely nothing emerged from that meeting.

There is no reason to think that he will be any more forthcoming after his meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany next Thursday and the first hope of hearing him report on progress will be when he makes a speech during his state visit to Holland the following week. By then the summit will be only five weeks away.

British concern is growing that France still cherishes the misconception that there can be room for compromise on the two main British claims – a fairer permanent budget for all and an economically controlled agriculture policy. M Cheysson last week repeated his President's view at Athens that a short term budget deal was all that was necessary, while the violence of French farmers is making it increasingly difficult for President Mitterrand to agree to any meaningful reforms on agriculture without committing political suicide.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, repeated for the umpteenth time in Brussels on Monday that these two conditions were just not negotiable

Britian is also despairing of ever overcoming the argument that it wants to get as much back from the EEC as it pays into it. No matter how many times British negotiators at every level go on repeating that Britain remains prepared to be a net modest contributor, even though it is a poorer country than several who receive money, that charge sticks, Britian stands condemned of anti-community behaviour.

Mrs Thatcher is not one to be shamed inot backing down and she is probably prepared to see the March summit be as big a failure as the Athens summit before she would give way on the two central issues. Were this to happen it would be difficult to find a majority in the European Parliament to unblock the £457m rebate due to Britain, which Mrs Thatcher has insisted must be paid by the end of the British financial year on March 31.

With that rebate frozen the domestic pressure on Mrs Thatcher to withhold payments from the Community and to accelerate its plunge into bankruptcy would become irresistable.

Crocker flies to see Botha

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

The United States has stepped up efforts to achieve a ceasfire in Southern Angola and thus open the way to an agreement on Namibian independence, with the announcement that Dr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affaires, is visiting Cape Town for talks tomorrow with Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister.

Dr Crocker's mission, part of a tour of African and European capitals, follows a flurry of diplomatic activity last week and over the weekend in Cape Verde, in which American, South African, Angolian and Portugese officials were involved at various times.

Mr Frank Wisner, Dr Crocker's deputy, said on Tuesday: "We are in the middle of sensitive negotiations aimed at securing peace in Southern Africa. We prefer not to say anything more on this now ..."

The main purpose of the American initiative appears to be to keep alive the South African proposal for a 30-day trial ceasefire in Southern Angola from January 31.

The South Africans would disengage their forces from the area provided the Angolans prevented the 20,000 Cuban troops estimated to be in Angola and the Swapo guerrillas also based there from taking advantage of the situation.

Swapo – the South West Africa People's Organization – has been fighting for 17 years for self-rule in Namibia.

The Angolans said the South Africans must drop their demand for removal of Cuban troops from Angola as a condition for granting independence to Namibia.

The Americans appear to hope that if a ceasefire could be achieved, without reference to other points of disagreement, it could create a climate of greater trust and confidence in which the Cuban issue and other problems could be solved more easily.

Dr Crocker's talks with Mr Botha begin tomorrow afternoon and are likely to continue through supper. Mr Botha has promised to burn the midnight oil if required. They may also meet on Saturday. On Sunday Dr Crocker is due to leave for Zambia.

● **Washington hopes:** As Dr Croker left Washington yesterday, US officials expressed cautious optimism (Nicholas Ashford writes).

A "Window of opportunity" for a settlement had been opened by South Africa's ceasefire offer, they said.

D'Aubuisson blames US for Salvador troubles

From Our Correspondent, San Salvador

A fiercely anti-Communist presidential candidate, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, said the United States was as responsible as the Soviet Union for "the problems that lash El Salvador".

Major D'Aubuisson, likely to be El Salvador's next president, said both superpowers were using the Salvadoean people as guinea pigs for experiments being conducted "without our permission".

"The United States is playing at being defendr of liberty. They are providing arms and money for the conflict and we, the Salvadorean people, are providing our blood, the destruction of our people and our country."

Major D'Aubuisson was speaking on Tuesday on the same podium as the other five candidates in elections to be held on March 25. It was a peculiarly "well-behaved" event, in the context of the terror which has characterized political life in El Salvador for the past fifty years, said the arbiter of the unprecedented forum.

Major D'Aubuisson's leading rival for the presidency, former president José Duarte, a Christian democrat, saw the causes of of El Salvador's agony not in terms of superpower expansionism, but as a result of "the structure ... since the 1930s, when the military seized and held on to political power".

Calling for an end to "simplistic" explanations, Señor Duarte said the history of his country was "a history of injustices ... of divisions between those who have had all and those who have had nothing. And this is the basic reason for the conflicts now. Ours is a history of institutionalized violence, of economic violence."

Speaking before select members of the Salvadorean establishment, Señor Duarte said "the rebels have had causes for taking to the mountains". He mocked those – among them the US who insist on the left-wing rebels putting down their arms and taking part in elections.

Señor Duarte's goal is a national dialogue in which all representative groups would have "security that they will not be killed at dawn or disappear."

Major D'Aubuisson, who leads the Republican Naional Alliance, rejected in his speech all negotiation with the guerrillas, saying military victory was the only way to achieve peace.

World grain surplus is forecast

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

A renewed world grain surplus this year, and an end to the recent recovery in market prices, were forecast yesterday by Mr Daniel Amstutz, the US Under Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr Amstutz, who was in London for talks with Soviet officials, said that, although the Russians were committed to purchasing 9 million tons this year under the latest long-term agreement signed last year, he did not expect that they would need to buy the full 22 million tons available from the United States.

The 1983 Soviet crop was much improved over the previous year, forecasts for this year were favourable and the United States' share of Soviet imports was down to about 25 per cent from more than 70 per cent in 1979, the last year before President Carter's embargo.

With the ending of the payment in kind programme, under which farmers were encouraged to leave land unplanted, the American wheat harvest was likely to be at least 10 million tons above last year, Mr Amstutz said.

The Kiessling Affair

Ministry defends trip by Swiss editor to Bonn

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

With painful embarrassment, the Ministry of Defence yesterday defended its decision to fly a publisher of a Zurich homosexual magazine to Bonn last week to discuss his claims that General Günter Kiessling had had sexual relations with a Düsseldorf male prostitute.

The ministry insisted that since General Kiessling, dismissed from his post as Nato's deputy Supreme Commander last month for alleged visits to homosexual bars in Cologne, had demanded a disciplinary hearing to clear his name. The Ministry was thus obliged to consider all evidence relating to the case.



Herr Ziegler: Detailed claim of prostitute tape.

The Government has confirmed that Herr Alexander Ziegler, a Swiss author and publisher of a magazine called *Du und Ich*, spent four and a half hours at the Ministry of Defence last Friday where he detailed his claim to have a tape recording of the prostitute asserting he had had sexual relations with General Kiessling in 1979. Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, was present for part of the meeting, as well as Herr Waldemar Schreckenberger, from the Chancellor's office, who heard the whole statement.

The press has expressed astonishment at this latest twist in the affair, and has given prominence to the calls by the retired General Gerd Schmückle, General Kiessling's predecessor at Nato, that Herr Wörner should resign. He said it was appalling that the minister should receive Herr Ziegler as a witness and yet not talk to General Kiessling

Political commentators have said it was "ridiculous and grotesque" for the Ministry to try to find conclusive proof for its sacking of General Kiessling after the event. Herr Walter Kolbow, the Social Democratic deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee of inquiry, which begins work today, said when Herr Wörner began fetching homosexuals from abroad, he was close to activating the ejection seat to fire himself from office.

General Kiessling, who has repeatedly denied being a homosexual and is suing Herr Wörner to clear his name, yesterday denied Herr Ziegler's claims.

Hongkong talks resume

Peking (AFP) – Sino-British talks on the future of Hongkong resumed here yesterday with increasing evidence that progress has been made in seven months of negotiations.

Both sides have new heads of delegation at the talks on the British colony over which China plans to reassert sovereignty in 1997.

Mr Zhou Nan, the assistant Chinese Foreign Minister, took over from Mr Yao Guang, Vice Foreign Minister, while the British team was led by Sir Richard Evans, Britain's new ambassador to Peking, who replaced Sir Percy Cradock.

Mr Zhou said he hoped for "very good cooperation" with Sir Richard, who expressed his wish for "useful and constructive talks today, tomorrow and hereafter."

Moroccans clamp down on hoarding

From Godfrey Morrison
Rabat

The Moroccan Government has launched a campaign to stamp out hoarding and speculation in basic foodstuffs after King Hassan's statement that prices would not be increased.

The King announced his decision on Sunday in a nationwide broadcast after the security forces had quelled a series of bloody riots in northern Morocco.

The official news agency said traders had been hoarding, or selling above the official price, certain basic essentials like cooking oil, sugar, flour and tea. Some offenders had already been punished, with their shops closed for up to a month and fines of up to £17,000.

As in Tunisia, where there were serious food riots earlier this month, Morocco has been going through a tough economic period, having to cut spending, including food subsidies.

The cost of living is believed to have risen over the last year by up to 15 per cent. In the year to the end of December, 1983, the official price index rose 12.6 per cent but there have since been tax increases and a rise in petrol and cooking gas prices.

A budget decree for 1984 has been published here which envisages continuing austerity, with a large cut in capital spending and a rise in current spending of only 3.6 per cent, less than the inflation rate.

The pro-Government newspaper, *L'Opinion*, said the decree would be debated by Parliament when it reconvenes, but, until then, has the force of law. Parliament is due to reassemble in April after a general election.

The country was reported calm yesterday.

● **TUNIS:** The Government yesterday lifted the curfew imposed at the beginning of January after the riots (AFP reports) but the state of emergency, also declared on January 3, remains in effect.

Cologne professor dies after lecture shooting

From Our Correspondent, Bonn

A Cologne University professor died yesterday after being shot in the head on Tuesday by a former woman student armed with five replica muzzle-loaded percussion pistols. Another professor, slightly wounded, was later discharged from hospital.

Professor Hermann Greive, aged 49, was fatally wounded when the woman, identified only as Sabine G., aged 32, walked into a hebrew studies lecture room brandishing two pistols and fired one at him at close range. He was hit in the left temple and collapsed.

Professor Johann Maier, aged 51, the director of the university's Institute for Jewish Studies, was slightly wounded in the head when he appeared in the room after hearing the shooting. But he and another professor were able to overpower the woman and hold her until police arrived.

A Cologne police spokesman said yesterday: "The woman has confessed to the shootings. But she is refusing to make any other statment, and we do not yet know her motives. We are continuing to question her."

The woman, who is a graduate in Jewish studies and was working in the university library, was examined by a psychiatrist yesterday. The police spokesman said ther did not appear to be any indications of mental imbalances.

She had driven to the institute in a hired minibus in which police later found five more replica pistols and a gas pistol, the spokesman added. All the weapons were loaded.

Dockyards deal with Britain dominates poll in Gibraltar

From Richard Wigg, Gibraltar

The people of Gibraltar vote today in a general election which is being seen as a virtual referendum on the deal worked out with Britain to turn the Royal Navy's former dry docks into a commercial enterprise from next January 1.

In the present harsh economic climate everything turns on the issue of redundancies among the voters. Some 770 dockyard workers already know they will be dismissed, signalling a sea change for the Rock's tiny economy, which has been dependent for centuries on spending by the Services.

Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, has been fighting his toughest campaign in 20 years, defending last year's agreement with Mrs Margaret Thatcher to bring in Appledore International to manage the commercial dry docks operation, as "the only way ahead". This is the slogan of his centrist Gibraltar Labour Party, in what has been dubbed the "dockyard election" here.

Sounding defensive and looking tired, Sir Joshua, aged 68, told Gibraltar's 16,000 elegible voters that the Rock's uncertain economic future, aggravated by the only partial opening of the frontier with Spain, is the principle reason for his staying on in public life.

"It would have been comfortable to let other people fight this election. But I have obtained a very fair package and I feel a duty to see it implemented over the next four years. No one could have obtained a better deal". Sir Joshua told the voters in his last television address.

Sir Joshua has been adamant that he will not forma coalition government, so that his party faces the uphill task of winning eight seats in the 15-seat House of Assembly as it did in 1980. Sir Joshua clearly stakes everything on Gibraltarian's clinging to his proven leadership in times of crisis.

But the Rock's two opposition forces maintain that the £28m British Government deal with Gibraltar for the docks' commercialization is not the viable alternative promised in the 1981 Defence White Paper.

Mr Peter Isola, leader of the Democratic Party of British Gibraltar (with six seats in the last Assembly) has pledged that if he wins he will renegotiate the deal with Britain. He says Gibraltar needs a further £5m to help its economy to diversify.

Mr Joe Bossano, head of Gibraltar's Socialist Labour Party, fighting as trade union leader a tailor-made election, campaigned as if he would send Appledore packing and draw up, locally, alternative dockyard conversion plans, but financed by the £28m aid from Britain.

Three independents are contesting the election and if one gets in it might save Gibraltar from the distinct possibility of a hung parliament.


Sir Joshua Hassan: Fighting toughest campaign

Russia tries to bring Romania in line

From Richard Owen
Moscow

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is to visit Romania next week for talks on controversial Soviet block issues, including Warsaw Pact unity on nuclear missiles and failure to agree on an economic summit.

A statement by Tass said Mr Gromyko, who met Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State last week in Stockholm in the first high level Soviet-American encounter for six months, would visit Bucharest at the end of this month. It gave no precise dates.

Romania, a maverick member of the Warsaw Pact, does not allow military manoeuvres on its territory and has repeatedly called for the elimination of nuclear weapons in both East and West. Last month, Romania boycotted a meeting of Soviet block ideological party secretaries in Moscow.

Mr Gromyko's talks with Romanian leaders come at a time when Moscow is seeking maximum Soviet block unity after the opening of the Stockholm disarmament conference.

Deputy prime ministers of the Soviet block countries have been meeting in Moscow this week to discuss a long delayed Comecon summit due to be held at the end of next month. The summit is in doubt due to President Andropov's continuing illness.

The Soviet press yesterday avoided comment on the prospects for a Soviet block summit to discuss East-West issues but said Comecon had prepared a series of economic agreements which might be ratified at a future Comecon summit.

The Soviet press said yesterday that Comecon was preparing to coordinate Soviet block agriculture in accordance with last October's Berlin meeting, but denied that this amounted to an "emergency package" designed too salvage agriculture in Eastern Europe.


Peace quest: Mr Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister (left) on a peace mission to Prague, with his son Sacha and Mr Lubomir Strougal, the Czechoslovak Prime Minister.

Argentina high on agenda as Thatcher flies to Rome

From Peter Nichols
Rome

Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrives here tonight for a round of talks colourlessly described as normal, bilateral consultations, which, nevertheless may prove unexpectedly stimulating.

Apart from the perennial questions of the British contribution to the Community budget and ways which Europeans can impose themselves more effectively on Washington, the Italians propose a close look at the Polish situation, a thorough review of the multinational force in Lebanon and a study of the sign of possible improvement in British relations with Argentina.

In this last field, Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, sees a special role for Italy. There is no question yet of mediation, but Italian good offices will be available to help improve matters.

On Tuesday Signor Craxi received Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, for private talks. The Italians are aware that sovereignty over the Falklands is not yet a point for discussion, but they believe it is time steps were taken, unilaterally if necessary, to change the psychological climate.

Such change would help public opinion on both sides to envisage moves aimed at reestablishing more normal relations. Given the strong ties Italy has with Argentina, Signor Craxi sees a chance for a role, and his associates feel his relationship with Mrs Thatcher is based on a common sense of realism.

Talks on the future of the multinational force in Lebanon are seen to turn on two main points. One is that the moment is now past when it was supposed that three of the four contributing countries and perhaps all, were near to a decision to withdraw because of the change in the task facing them.

There is now a feeling that the troops will have to remain, but that means a strategy must be devised to make their presence constructive.

The Italians are "restructuring their force, which means diminishing somewhat the total, but making it more effective. They remain the largest component of the force. "The Americans," as one official said, "have more bombs, but we have more men there."

The second point about Lebanon concerns the appraisal the British and Italians make of Syrian intentions. The Italians believe that President Assad feels time to be on his side: he can well expect to outstay the multinational force.

Signor Craxi is in communication with him, but there is no clear idea of what Syrian intentions really are. They could be territorial and, in particular, aimed at regaining the Golan Heights from Israel or aimed more at increasing Syria's relative weight in the Arab world because of its prominence in Lebanese affairs.

In another sphere, Poland will form part of the problem of relations with the East, brightened in the Italian as well as the British view by President Reagan's latest statement.

There will be a special contribution from Signor Craxi, who has been briefed on the talks last week between the Pope and Cardinal Glemp, the Polish Primate. The Vatican has told him that diplomatic relations could well be established this year with Poland.

Rome and the cardinal have, however, imposed a condition that, in the interim, the church's role in Poland's national life be clearly defined.

Mrs Thatcher's talks with Signor Craxi will last for little more than half a day. She arrives tonight with four members of the Cabinet. They will be guests at a dinner given by Signor Craxi at Castel Sant'Angelo.

The principal talks will take place tomorrow. In the afternoon Mrs Thatcher will see President Pertini before flying back to London.

Naples elects mayor

Signor Franco Picardi, Social Democrat, has been elected Mayor of Naples, frequently described as the most uncomfortable chair in Italy (Our Rome Correspondent writes).

His predecessor, Senator Maurizio Valenzi, a Communist who held the post for eight years, showed Signor Picardi to his seat and said: "I do not envy you." The new mayor leads a minority administration and is expected to call elections once he has managed to win approval for a budget.

Thousands of Burmese flee fighting

From Our Correspondent
Bangkok

In the heaviest fighting for 10 years between Burmese government forces and rebels in north eastern Burma, clashes continued for the fourth day yesterday after 6,000 Burmese civilians fled into Thailand to escape the violence.

Loyal Thai officials have sent messages to the Burmese authorities urging them to restrict the fighting, which threatens to spill over into Thailand.

A Thai Supreme Command spokesman in Bangkok said more than 20 Burmese shells had landed in Thailand, damaging houses, schools and a police station. Unconfirmed reports say some Thai villagers have been killed and wounded.

The current campaign is against the largely Christian Karens, who have been in rebellion since Burma became independent 36 years ago, and is the most sustained in a decade, according to Thai border officials.

They say the battle began with three days of artillery and mortar bombardment of rebel positions at Mae Taw Wah, a town 100 miles north of Mae Sot, an important Thai centre on the border, and the rebels second biggest stronghold.

Phosphorous shells set alight the market and destroyed it, together with 300 surrounding houses.

Ethiopians accused of aid charade

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Ethiopia has been forcing people to pose as refugees to earn more than £14m in aid from the United Nations and other bodies, it was alleged in London yesterday.

On one occasion the pilot of aircraft with relief workers on board saw a column of 2,000 villagers being marched back home after taking part in this charade, according to Lord Avebury, the Liberal peer.

It was one of a number of bogus schemes which the Government in Addis Ababa had used to extract money and goods from the West, he said. He also accused it of embezzling food intended for refugees by diverting it to the army.

"It is the accepted wisdom that this is the price we have to pay to lure the Ethiopians away from the Soviet block. If this is correct it is too high a price to pay, and the oppressed people of Eritrea and Ethiopia are paying it, not us," he said at a meeting to launch the Horn of Africa Committee, which has been set up to focus public attention on this part of the world.

Lord Avebury accused the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of having double-crossed Ethiopian refugees in Djibouti by forcing them to be repatriated, although there was no evidence that any of them wanted to go.

Prince on God's will

Swazi women lectured on see-through clothes

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A stern warning to the women of Swaziland to observe greater modesty in their dress has been issued by Prince Bhekimpi Dlamini, the Prime Minister, in a policy speech to the new members of Parliament elected in a complicated tribal process towards the end of last year.

The Prime Minister urged women to "throw away" slacks, mini-skirts and see-through clothes and "buy decent clothing to wear in public". He noted that in Malawi "people are stopped at the airport if they wear such clothing and are told to buy acceptable clothes before they enter the country and mix with the people".

Prince Bhekimpi did not say whether similar regulations were to be introduced in Swaziland, but he seemed to hint at it. In his own chiefdom in northern Swaziland, fairly strict sartorial rules have been in force for some time.

The Prime Minister also took a dim view of women's liberation, saying: "While we want our women in Swaziland to progress in all sectors of our institutional life, they must respect men and know their place in society as women."

"If you think it is right that women should lead the way, then let it be, but learn one thing from me: :God created men and then created women from the man's rib. It was God's will, therefore, that men should lead the way".

One of the attractions for white South African tourists to Swaziland has been the availability of casinos, economically priced sex across the colour line, and "soft porn" movies. Prince Andrew's former girlfriend, Miss Koo Stark, starring in *The Awakening of Emily* was a big hit last year.

These facilities, banned in white-ruled South Africa, can now also be enjoyed nearer home, in South Africa's tribal "homelands", and Swaziland's mildly risqué night life is no longer the tourist-puller it once was.

It is certain that Prince Bhekimpi's remarks would have been approved in advance by the Liqoqo, the supreme council of state, whose dozen or more members are mainly very conservative princes and chiefs.

An attempt 18 months ago by a group of MP's to have the wearing of slacks by women banned was defeated by the Minister of Home Affairs at the time, Prince Gabheni Dlamini, a modernist who defended the right of women to choose their own form of dress.

Prince Gabheni came to grief last August, however, when he made the tactical error of siding with Queen Dzeliwe, the Queen Regent, in a constitutional tussle with the Liqoqo which she eventually lost.

Japanese budget gives priority to aid and defence

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

The Japanese Government yesterday approved an austere national budget draft for fiscal 1984, starting April 1, which gives priority, though on a modest scale, to defence and foreign aid and squarely places the burden on consumers and business.

The focal point of last-minute haggling was defence, an area in which Japan's ally, the United States, has exerted strong pressure for increased spending. Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, has been more receptive to raising the nation's profile in defence than his predecessors.

In a hair-splitting compromise, Mr Nakasone gave the defence agency a 6.55 per cent rise for fiscal 1984, to 2,935 billion yen: slightly above 1983's 6.5 per cent rise and just within the still politically sensitive Cabinet guideline holding defence spending to 1 per cent of gross national product. Though this is more sleight of hand than a reflection of actual spending (by Nato calculations Japan is above 1 per cent already), Mr Nakasone is unprepared to breach that barrier.

But overall, the 50,627 billion yen budget expanded only 0.5 per cent compared with 1983's original, a point which should assure Americans that Japan is at least serious about the defence question.

The budget authorizations will allow the Defence Agency to order 17 more F15 fighter jets, eight P3C patrol aircraft and three escort destroyers. This is less than requested but more than budget officials wanted to allow. Japan is running behind on its medium-term defence build-up programme which is based on a now dated outline drawn up in 1976

Official development aid was designated as the other exception to total austerity. The Foreign Ministry won a 9.5 per cent rise.

General expenditure slipped (by 0.1 per cent) for the first time in 29 years as the Finance Ministry cut all but essential spending needs to cut back on deficit covering bond issues. Even so, a quarter of the budget will be funded by bonds.

Budget austerity will be felt most sharply by the general public. To fund a moderate income tax reduction – promised by Mr Nakasone in his election campaign in December – the Government increased taxes on a wide range of daily consumer items, and put up rates on such basic services as national medical insurance.

Companies will also be forced to absorb a "temporary" rise in corporate taxes by 1.3 per cent over the already heavy 42 per cent rate currently levied by the national government.



Diamond wedding: Emperor Hirohito, aged 82, and Empress Nagako, who is 80, looking through a photograph album on the eve of their sixtieth wedding anniversary today.

Abortion Bill clash threatens Soares

From Our Correspondent, Lisbon

The abortion debate which opened in the Portuguese Parliament yesterday is threatening to break up the Socialist-Social Democratic coalition led by Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister.

The Social Democrats strongly oppose the abortion Bill presented to Parliament in January by their Socialist partners. This would permit abortion in the case of rape when an official complaint has been lodged, when the mother's life is in danger or when there is a malformation of the feotus. The time limit for an abortion would be 12 weeks. The majority of the Social Democrats are Catholics who do not accept any cause for abortion.

Some political observers believe Dr Soares hopes the passage of the Bill will refurbish his somewhat tarnished image as a leader of the left. He can expect the backing of the Communists to pass it.

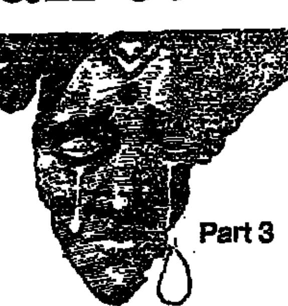
On the other hand, he has said publicly that he will not continue as Prime Minister if the coalition splits and the Social Democrats withdraw from the Government, even though his Socialist Party continues to govern.

The Catholic Church has vigorously opposed the Bill.

Tamils wary and distrustful

Bridging an ethnic chasm

This is the last of three reports by Michael Hamlyn, South Asia Correspondent, on Sri Lanka after the communal violence.



A sturdy looking Tamil in a refugee camp on the outskirts of Jaffna turned out to be a former air force engineer, and had quit the forces during the July troubles last year and run to the north.

We spoke of his prospects for employment – not bright – and then considered what would happen to the country if the all-party talks then continuing in Colombo should break down.

"The future is", he said, and his eyes glittered, "that we want arms."

A few miles away at the campus of Jaffna University a student explained that it was not long since the Sinhalese Government changed the rules for university entry from straight merit to a mixture of racial and other rules that effectively reduced the Tamil intake. He dated the growth of the Tamil terrorist groups from that moment .... The young people, instead of being admitted to higher education, took to the gun.

"Since the attacks on Tamil students in the south," he added, "at least 90 have disappeared to join the terrorists."

Meanwhile down in Colombo a sensible and civilized Sinhalese explained: "Sri Lanka is the only place where Sinhala is spoken. Tamil is in no danger: there are 50 million people speaking it in India. We must do all we can to protect our language and the Buddhist religion."

It was Sri Lanka which gave its fairy-tale name (Serendip) to serendipity, the ability to go through life making happy and accidental discoveries. But as time has passed a solution to the dreadful ethnic rivalry between the two ancient peoples of the island has become more and more difficult. Attitudes are now dangerously polarized.

Ever since Sinhalese politicians found at the time of independence that the way to political power was to pander to Sinhala chauvinism the disabilities heaped upon the Tamils have grown. The Tamils are now wary and distrustful

"There have been a number of talks in the past which have resulted in bitter disappointment for us", a Tamil civil servant said. "The most recent was the sell-out over the district development councils. We cooperated fully in setting them up, and tried to make them work, only to find that they were cynically undermined, and we were less well off with them than with centralized government."

And yet there are some hopeful signs. The Tamil politicians have gone into the talks prepared to negotiate again. They have even indicated that they are prepared to give up the idea of separation if they can be given something to guarantee their security and the integrity of their lands.

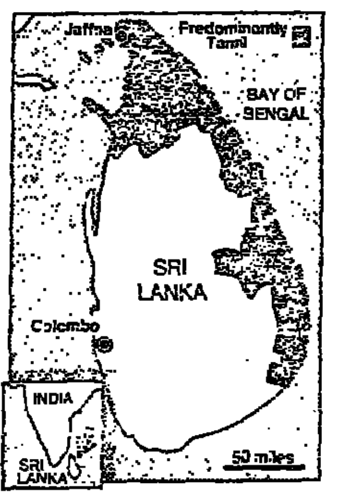
The Buddhist monks, who are represented at the round table talks and who are widely, though not necessarily accurately, regarded as the most chauvinist group there, are urging non-violence all round. They have promised the Tamil leaders that something can be done to increase their security.

Another hopeful sign is the international dimension of the situation – the interest that India is taking in the talks, and the apparent success that Mrs Gandhi's special envoy, Mr Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, has had in persuading the Sri Lankan Government and its opposition rivals to sit down together. It is also suggested in diplomatic circles that the President, Mr J. R. Jayewardene, has been handling affairs with more confidence since the visit to his office of the US Secretary of Defence, Mr Caspar Weinberger, and the long chat he had with the American special envoy, General Walters.

But the most hopeful sign of all is the virtual impossibility of creating an independent Tamil state as envisaged by the Tamil separatists. The Tamils have in mind to separate the northern and eastern provinces into a state they propose to call Tamil Eelam. But a glance at the map would show them the impracticality of establishing and defending a border that would wander across the countryside – following no natural boundary – for 300 to 400 miles.

If the worst came to the worst and the Tamils did establish a precarious independence, it would have to be restricted to the northernmost part of the island. There they would necessarily be worse off than they are now. If, however, they can establish some form of regional autonomy for the northern and eastern provinces by peaceful discussion they must be better off.

Concluded



Sinhalese quit talks

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

The all-party conference on the problems of the Tamil minority suffered a setback on Tuesday when the three representatives of Sinhalese organizations who staged a temporary walk-out last Friday, withdrew from the conference.

At the same time, however, three representatives of the Ceylon Sinhalese Buddhist organizations, who had claimed that they had been kept out of the original delegation of the Sinhalese organizations because of "the intervention of some external forces" were admitted, and were regareded as being representative of the Sinhalese organizations.

The three Sinhalese representatives who walked out have sent a letter to President Jayewardene, saying that the conference should first identify the real problems of the various communities before seeking a solution. But they conceded that the problems of the Tamils should be given priority.

They also stated their opposition to the proposals contained in a document placed before the conference which contained some of the tentative proposals which President Jayewardene had discussed with the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, in Delhi, last December.

Afghanistan replaces its top brass

From Our Own Correspondent
Delhi

A new chief of the general staff has been appointed in Afghanistan after the dismissal of several high military officials and officers by President Barbrak Karmal, according to Western Diplomats in Delhi.

General Baba Jan, who was thought to have been too old and ineffective for the job, has been replaced as chief of the general staff by a younger more aggressive general, the former commander-in-chief of the Air Force, General Nazar Muhammad.

A new first deputy minister of defence has also been appointed, according to the diplomats. He is Major-General Muhammad Nabi Azimi, former commander of the 17th Armoured Division.

Pakistan holds 258 on drugs charges

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad

Pakistan's military regime has detained 258 people, on charges of being habitual smugglers, particularly of drugs. The detention, under martial law, deprives them of the right to seek redress from any civil court.

Mr Roedad Khan, the Secretary-General of the Interior Ministry, said that in 1983 anti-smuggling agencies seized 5,850lb of heroin besides other smuggled goods, valued at 290m rupees (about £15m). He said Pakistan's long borders with India, Afghanistan and Iran, stretching 1,500 miles, made it difficult to take effective measures against smuggling.

Greece tames CIA-style intelligence agency

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece's Central Intelligence Services, once a hotbed of political intrigue and subversion, is being demilitarized and brought under the direct authority and control of Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister.

A Government spokesman said the revamped service, better known here as KYP from its Greek initials, would deal exclusively with matters affecting national security, "not, as it has done in the past, collecting information about Greek citizens."

Under a draft law tabled in Parliament on Monday, KYP becomes a "self-contained civilian service" under the Prime Ministers' orders. Government critics claimed the move was designed to bring the service under the control of the ruling Socialist Party.

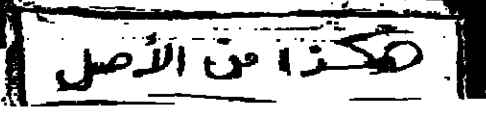
A decree to be enacted later will empower the Prime Minister to restructure the sevice, remodel its establishment and define the qualifications of its personnel. "We want to have an intelligence service comparable to that of other countries and under strict Goverment control," the spokesman explained.

KYP was set up in 1952 with American guidance and technical aid. It was naturally modelled on the United States Central Intelligence Agency with which it was in close cooperation at least until the Socialists came to power in 1981.

Most of the Greek colonels who staged the military coup in 1967 were connected with KYP, and it is this link that gave rise to left-wing allegations that the coup had been engineered by the CIA.

KYP was invariably headed by retired Army generals and staffed with military and police officers.

In recent months the Government advertized for qualified personnel with university degrees in a variety of fields without giving details. Some successful applicants who later discovered they were being hired by KYP, withdrew their applications



To the German film director Wim Wenders America looked like a place of myth and hope. He has been working there again, on *Paris, Texas*. **Melinda Camber Porter** interviewed him on the set

Pioneering the breakaway from introspection

"Most movies about men and women describe relationships as a total disaster or they describe them, in the wrong way, as beautiful, as if love can overcome everything. So I felt that this film should make an effort to show, not a solution, not a way out, nor a Utopia, but just some sort of transcendence like a man jumping over his own shadow or some sort of reverse order of things, where everything would be do-able again. So that's what we're trying to do." Thus speaks Wim Wenders, the young German director who has been shooting his eleventh feature film, *Paris, Texas*, in and around Houston and Los Angeles.

The screenplay (conceived by Wenders and the playwright/actor Sam Shepard) was still undergoing changes when I arrived on the set; and Wenders was allowing the natural character development of Travis (Harry Dean Stanton), Jane (Nastassia Kinski) and their child (Hunter Carson) to determine his rewrites. Sam Shepard was on the telephone from Iowa, monitoring the changes that Kit Carson, author of the film *Breathless*, was dictating on location.

Mr Carson is the father of Hunter Carson, and he says that the story of *Paris, Texas* mirrors his own in many ways: that of a man who leaves his child and wife and returns in order to bring about some new relationship or family bond. But Wenders stresses that he is not just interested in the lonely self-discovery of Travis. For the first time in his career, he is attempting to explore a woman's development.

"It was a lot even to consider as a main theme of a movie for me, and that was a big step, not just to have it be one of several underlying subjects but to say, hey, this is what the movie is about. My own life had been so much dominated by my work in the movies and I had identified so much with that work. The last three films that I had made had all dealt with the cinema itself."

Wenders seems relieved to be working within the restrictions of a low budget. *Paris, Texas* is being financed by Channel 4 and French and German television. His attempt to work with American finance proved disastrous when Coppola agreed to produce *Hammett* but ended up trying to interfere with the direction of the film. Wenders demands total control over his method of working and material, but within that freedom lies the possibility of contradicting his own assumptions:



Wenders in America – shooting *Reverse Angle* in New York

"I feel that I am in more control than I can handle. I know my theme so well that it scares me. Usually I don't know that. You see, I can't stand working on a movie if the work itself and the actual making of the movie isn't also some sort of a discovery, isn't also some sort of an adventure. One really can't discover the characters until one starts shooting. The ending comes out of them and they actually 'wrote' this story to the point where it is now."

Watching Wenders directing his actors is like watching a painter sensitive to each change in texture and tone, without being able to see the actual canvas. Sometimes he demands retakes of what appears to be a simple gesture: "The hardest part, though, is to make everybody believe that it's going to make sense. If I tried to do it any other way, by first making a big sketch that everybody could look at – well, I couldn't do it.

"It's not a coincidence that Sam and I work together. So we have something in common. Stories to tell. Yes. Maybe Sam is looking for something similar in America to what I was looking for out of Europe and that I saw in America, and Sam sees it in the West. That of being a kind of hope, or a place where there was still some sort of change taking place. I don't know. Or at least the West for him – at least in the plays of his, there is still this mythical place that for me America is."

Does he feel that American society has realized, in any form, its Utopian dreams? "No, I think the opposite is true. I think that all the people who fled from Europe in the seventeenth century, and the nineteenth century, were trying to avoid inequities in Europe and hoped that this was the country where all these abuses wouldn't hit them any more. I think it was totally reversed, in that all these abuses have installed themselves on a much bigger scale here in America. We've just imported them."

Wenders is, paradoxically, more comfortable when he finds himself on the peripheries of an unknown, be it in his artistic choices or his personal life. His fascination with America is based on the indefinable nature of society. "The very idea of being a pioneer hasn't existed in Europe for five hundred years, except for those Europeans who left to explore the Antarctic, but, otherwise, there is no notion of a very ordinary person becoming, in a sense, a pioneer, by moving someplace new with his family. So there's this whole long culture and tradition that has totally eliminated the possibility of being a pioneer."

Wenders has consistently been drawn to landscapes where one cannot remain: freeways, motels, deserts and open country. Looking out at the mirrored skyscraper upon skyscraper of the Houston skyline, he surprises by saying that this modernity is not alienating for him, but rather a part of his aesthetic.

Equality is the key theme of *Paris, Texas*, and Wenders believes it is essential in all relationships, although true equality is hard to achieve. "I think it's more that Travis realizes that what he has inside him, the feelings that he has, the good feelings that he has, that it is not fair towards Jane, the woman, not to share it with her, the same way he could share it with a kid."

Wenders has a natural bond with children. In his previous films, such as *Alice in the Cities*, his direction of the child was as sensitive as Truffaut's achievement with child actors. Watching him frolicking on the set with Hunter Carson, one sees a boyish vigour and unmasked joy radiating through his somewhat guarded manner.

"I lived with a boy for seven years, but he was not my child. And also you can never have any equal relationship to a child if you don't have any of a child left in you. And that's the real test between an adult and a child. How much child there is still in you. They sense it pretty quickly and they are pretty accurate about phony childishness.

"Story-telling in general reassures not only kids but adults, and it does have a stabilizing effect. Just by the very fact that it has a structure. It's something firm and it starts somewhere and it ends somewhere. Everything that real life doesn't really tend to do. I really don't know what I would have done without these films that I make. I would probably have found some other sort of experience, but I feel that I not only measure my life through these 10 movies that I've made so far but that the changes that I have gone through are always enforced by the films I make."

Television

Intimate inhibitions

"If I had a 15-year-old daughter, I would think twice before I let him take her to dinner", said Clive James, introducing **Roman Polanski**, whom he was about to lunch. It was an intimate affair in Paris prefaced, possibly to stress the informality of an occasion that would be immediately witnessed by a camera crew and subsequently by last night's late audience on Channel 4, by a brief discussion on the genitalia of the snail, Mr James's first course.

Interviews tend to be artificial confrontations. Given the choice, interviewer and interviewee, unless they are complete egomaniacs, would probably prefer to be somewhere else, even if it were only at home watching a television interview. Mr Polanski, one supposes, would have additional inhibitions for, as he rightly anticipated, he was to be questioned about the ghastly murder of his pregnant wife Sharon Tate and about his bail-hopping from California where he faced a charge of having sex with a minor.

Though undoubtedly a brilliant film director, he is probably better known for these two incidents. Currently, he has a biography on the market, which made an interview useful for him and fair meat for Mr James.

His personal catastrophes loomed large from the beginning. Mr Polanski's early background came through sketchily though it had meat, too. His parents were removed by the Germans and he was brought up in the country by friends of his father, only the woman of the house being aware of his Jewishness.

His introduction to film was through the wire of the Cracow ghetto. He watched the projection of newsreel on the walls. Later he saw German films ("lousy") and, postwar, became hooked on Robin Hood. He followed his fascination with the medium into the Polish film school where he learnt his business before going west. The capitalist system, though not perfect, he judged the best possible.

The Sixties, he said, were his best time. His marriage to Sharon Tate was a peak, though the happiness had not lasted long enough to be tested. Her murder, he acknowledged, had probably made him unbalanced for a time.

He thanked Mr James for waiting for coffee to broach the subject of his predilection for young girls. "You want the nitty-gritty?" No, said Mr James, he did not. He wanted to know what happened that night, which sounded like the nitty-gritty. In fact, it was afternoon, Mr Polanski explained, and, had Mr James seen the girl, he would not have been particularly shocked.

There was further discussion about Mr Polanski's attraction for women in general, but little sparkle. That is the trouble with long lunches.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Man as victim

Double bill
Old Red Lion

Reaching London via the Edinburgh Festival, these two French monodramas both feature a distraught male victim pleading his cause to an unseen listener, and obliquely implicating the audience in his past sufferings. There the resemblance comes to an end, and it was a wise move by the Almeida Company to open the programme with Bernard-Marie Koltes's *Twilight Zone* rather than its pathetically hilarious sequel, Michel Tournier's *The Fetishist*.

Twilight Zone is the confession of a nameless outcast adrift in an alien country who stumbles into a bare room and pours out the story of his humiliations and fantasies to an imaginary "brother" before declaring that he is breaking ranks with the dispossessed and that henceforth this is his place.

The English translation, by Peter Cox, deploys a conspicuously literate syntax and is full of internal echoes and recapitulating loops; and most of it is reduced to a high-speed monotone by the black actor Trevor Laird, who reserves emphasis for moments of despair and angry defiance. He is a powerful performer, but attention drifts.

The Fetishist may seem a trivial companion piece, but it is specific and beautifully organized, and it has found the right actor in Christopher Craig. True to the title, it concerns a man who prefers knickers to what goes inside them. But M Tournier gives his hero a fetishistic philosophy as well as a biography. His view is that lingerie has as much right to a happy life as those who buy it.

From the moment that, as a cavalry soldier, he is laid low by his first flash, he has devoted himself unswervingly to this purpose. First as a PoW, then as a husband ransacking lingerie counters throughout the country and picking pockets to pay for it, he presents himself simultaneously as a selfless benefactor and a hopeless addict.

From Mr Craig's performance, eyes downcast and nervously twisting his fingers together after a decade in a mental hospital, pity accumulates as much as farce. But his final moment, standing gallantly to attention to salute a washing-line of his favourite exhibits, makes you wonder whether he is a victim after all.

Irving Wardle

Comic Cuts
Nuffield, Southampton

In the Garstwyke Alhambra near Hull, we are asked to believe, there sits a sharp-suited shark called Greenwood, raking in not only a fortune from bingo but a £200,000 Arts Council grant for completely fictitious theatrical productions. As theatre cleaner, he exploits his mentally retarded son, who goes about muttering "bloodybloody" or, for variety, "bloody 'eck".

Two blokes, one called Alice, plan to burgle the safe. Another bloke called Shirley with a joke mother-in-law and a frustrated wife prints fictitious drama reviews for the "ponces" in Piccadilly. (This sexless marriage, of course, heralds eventual, sentimental reunion and a coitus-shaken set.) Panicking at the news of an impending Arts Council inspection, the whole crew don frockcoats and crinolines for a hasty staging of, would you credit it, *The Government Inspector*.

As a cobbled-up contraption for raising laughs, Stephen Mallatratt's farce is more cynically senseless than most but, surprisingly, the audience fell for it. Most of the dialogue, especially in the messy stop-go first act, is even feebler than the average television comedy, but the clever lines are worse. Greenwood asks his eavesdropping son "Tell me, sly slime, what other sprats have you filched from his intimate net?" The boy spent most of that scene with his teeth fastened in Barry Foster's jacket pocket.

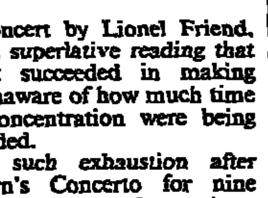
The sum of wasted acting talent is depressing. Mr Foster absently feeds his brat with dry-roasted peanuts and is not embarrassed by all his lines. Greenwood's taste in mistresses is impeccable, but massage, mothering and a snatch of Gogol give Ursula Mohan's comic gifts no scope. Neither the podgy Ken Morley's vicarish mischief nor his glaring American tourist gear can make Alice more than a tired non-joke.

The *raison d'être* of the piece, of course, is the last half-hour, the command performance itself. Funny costumes, missed entrances, safe-keys and swag passed round in mid-performance, bloody-bloodying from the halfwit (who, with typical implausibility, is playing the lead): it is all rather like a deformed and dying patient being given a monkey-gland injection. But Mr Mallatratt and his director Peter Wilson know that in this kind of context, like the finale of *Midsummer Night's Dream*, you can get away with murder. Martin Tilley's sets, starting with a gilded proscenium and ruched net drapes bathed in lilac light, do at least touch up tackiness with a twinkle in the eye.

Anthony Masters

Concerts

Anniversary classics



Capricorn/Friend
Queen Elizabeth Hall

What better way for a performing group to celebrate its tenth anniversary than by giving a concert of good old classics? Capricorn, who have been responsible for a good many first performances over the years, did exactly that on Tuesday – with a programme of Schoenberg, Berg and Webern.

Only in the instance of Berg's Chamber Concerto would I tentatively dare to question the music's quality. Despite the rich scoring, the heady profusion of ideas and the Brahmsian sense of proportion, the work's structure contains just a whiff of contrivance. The very idea of the solo pianist and violinist taking turns to play movements before coming together in the admittedly heady euphoria of the Rondo seems artificial, although the movements taken individually combine brilliant organizational skill with free-ranging passions.

The violin soloist, Elisabeth Perry, tackled with equal success the sweeping lyricism of the central Adagio and the swirling restlessness of the finale, while her pianist colleague, Julian Jacobson, skated, skipped, hammered and sang his way through the sonata-variations of the first movement with equivalent aplomb. But the work is really a concerto for every player, and Capricorn, conducted here as throughout the concert by Lionel Friend, gave a superlative reading that almost succeeded in making one unaware of how much time and concentration were being expended.

No such exhaustion after Webern's Concerto for nine instruments, Op 24, written when the composer was expanding his forms after reaching the limits of distilled expressionism. Even so, the work takes less than ten minutes, though during that time Webern says an awful lot and in an exceedingly beautiful way.

After a slightly wooden first movement, Capricorn's playing suddenly became wonderfully natural and fluent. The contours of the slow movement were shaped with attention to the broad cantabile phrases as well as the individual two and three-note cells. And the finale, a scherzo in all but name, bounced along joyfully, glittering with colour and brimming with inventiveness.

Finally, we heard Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, "three times seven" settings of Giraud that delve deeply into the bizarre, macabre and haunting psyche of the musing clown. Sarah Walker's accurately pitched *sprechstimme* captured the elusiveness and eternal ambiguities of the character, while the equally finely pointed instrumental playing (notwithstanding all those canons and palindromes) also added to the sense of fear and mystery.

Stephen Pettitt

LSO/Previn
Festival Hall

The fiftieth anniversary of Elgar's death has only just begun to be celebrated, yet already his enigma has been presented head-on, and by the orchestra with which he was closely associated in the early years of this century as principal conductor and as leader of its first provincial tour.

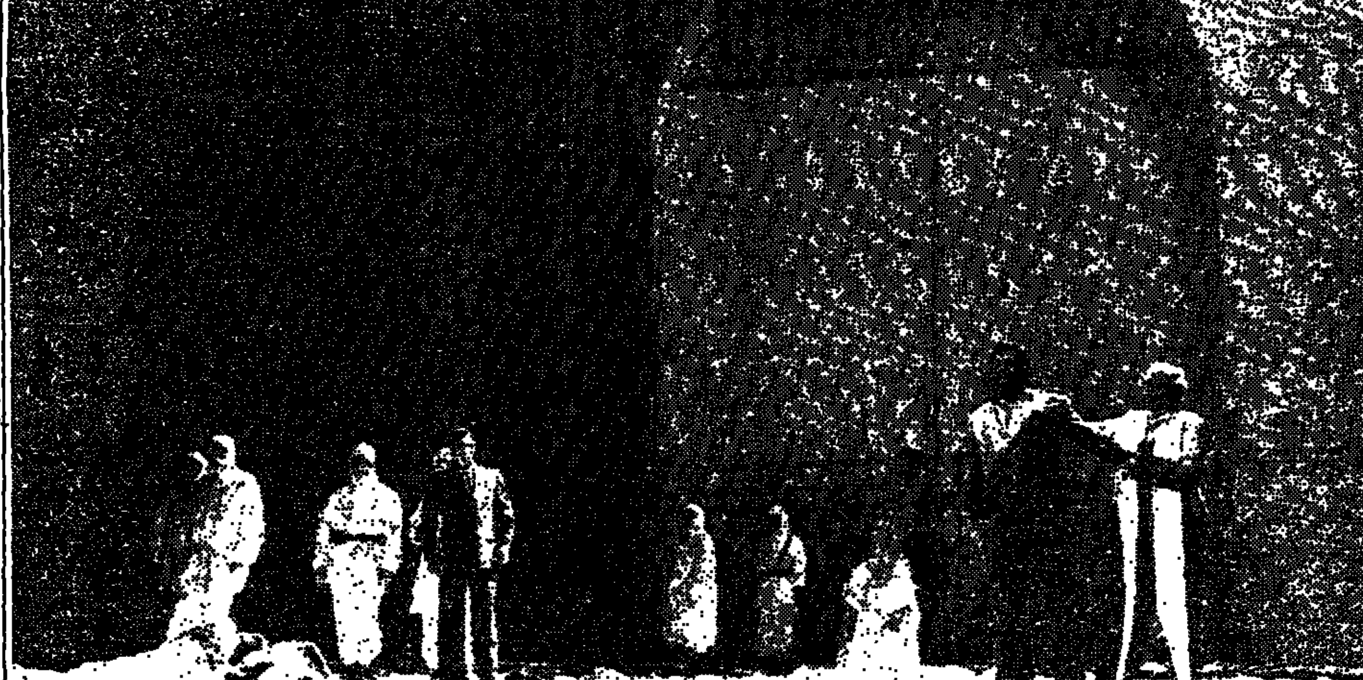
Under André Previn's direction, the London Symphony Orchestra, playing on Tuesday as well as they have done for months, stimulated, questioned and challenged in often quite extraordinarily revelatory performances, from the first bars of the *Cockaigne* Overture to the last note of the "Enigma" Variations.

The paradoxes and ambivalences suspended so lightly and pointed so vividly by Previn in these two works found their sharpest focus in Yo Yo Ma's central performance of the Cello Concerto, a work given its first performance by this orchestra in 1919. Its fiercely concentrated opening recitative contained the seeds of that rare breadth of emotional experience which the soloist can find in a single line, and which he used throughout the work to articulate his deeply perceptive interpretation.

It was a reading which, in richness of idea and response, it would take one long past deadline time to digest fully. For the time being, only elements and clues surface: the vibrant balance maintained between urgent involvement and strange distancing in the patterns of timbre and phrasing in the slow movement; the sense of an almost Sisyphus-like struggle against weight and descent in the finale; the indivisibility of bow and baton within Previn's masterful direction of the orchestral accompaniment.

That same lively ebb and flow between solo voice and orchestral body contributed, in the "Enigma" Variations, to Previn's drawing out of the work's supple whimsicality, and to his engendering of a constant sense of elusive mystery through its variations. In its liquid wind phrasing, its teasing rhythms and, most remarkably, in the long, tense restraint of "Nimrod's" growth, this performance left room, where many do not, for questions to remain, and for Elgar's "dark saying" to be everywhere present and still unguessed.

Hilary Finch



The bare-walled final act, with Jean-Philippe Lafont (Goland) and Pierre Thau (Arkel) on the right

Opera

Maeterlinck's bluff is called at last

Pelléas et Mélisande
Monnaie, Brussels

One had always thought that the emptiness of Maeterlinck's drama was a positive advantage, that it offered the necessary invitation to Debussy to bring *Pelléas et Mélisande* into some real existence with music. Now a fellow Belgian, the film-maker André Delvaux, has called Maeterlinck's bluff. Instead of seizing the play's elusive phrases into a flesh-and-blood tragedy, as was for instance Harry Kupfer's way at the Coliseum, M Delvaux has withdrawn to a distance from which he can inspect the text, often contradict it, and attempt to pierce through its screens to the very much more precise though ambiguous data of Debussy's music. It is in the best sense an experimental production that the Brussels Opera have got themselves, and as such it may take a little while to become properly efficient. Still, the significance of the experiment is clear: it has turned the lazy questions of Maeterlink's play into steel instruments for a surgical exploration of its meaning.

An index of the production's seriousness is its treatment of Yniold's solo scene in the fourth act, normally a children's corner in the opera but here absolutely central. Typically M Delvaux achieves the change by transforming symbols into severe stage actualities. The effect can be crass, as when the boy tries to shift not a stone but a grand piano: the weight of the music in this production has already been thoroughly felt. But other aspects of the scene assist the estranging of the opera that is so powerfully persuasive.

Yniold is the only character to make any contact with the normal world, in his little dialogue with the Shepherd. M Delvaux, however, cuts off that line of communication. The Shepherd's part is sung by Yniold as in a game, and the outside world features instead in a dim vision of operatives engulfed in white overalls. They precipitate Yniold's departure so that the opera can proceed to its climax of love and death in the next scene, just as they have appeared before, in advance of the prelude, to set Mélisande on her course, and just as they will appear again in the last act to collect her from a stage opened out to the bare rear wall and littered with detritus.

The overalls and the cautious movements suggest people examining a Soveso-type catastrophe, or workers at a nuclear plant handling exceedingly dangerous material: both images are apt. But the outsiders also give a firm if unexplained reality to Maeterlinck's "destiny", in that the dynamic of fate is replaced by that of their observation. Mélisande begins as one of them. She is then placed in Allemonde while the watchers wait, and she penetrates layer upon layer of the castle: rather vulgar drops carrying lighting patterns out of Barnett Newman are lifted one by one until the stage stands vacant and black for the cistern scene. At the centre of the riddle is a great emptiness, which once exposed must collapse.

But if this Mélisande, sung with chilled, stilled purity by Britt-Marie Aruhn, is puncturing Maeterlinck's pretensions, she is puncturing too the pretensions of the other characters.



Anthony Rolfe Johnson's lyrical Pelléas

Dressed in lustrous modern fabrics to a 1930s cut, these are surely not the creatures of Maeterlinck's imagination but people investigating within and largely for themselves what it might be like to be the confused youth, the ogrous husband and the resiged elders. It is a delicate line to take on a dramatic work, and it demands from the cast both a tight control and a willingness to play dangerously.

On this level there are no questions. The Pelléas, or perhaps it should be pseudo-Pelléas, is a young man in the loose attire of a Humphrey Bogart, one prepared to show his vulnerability, in contrast with the stiff suited figures of Golaud and Arkel: he is an appropriate embodiment for Anthony Rolfe Johnson's debut in the part, which proves to thrive abundantly on his blend of exquisite, slightly anxious concern and generous lyrical beauty. The tone sounds utterly spontaneous, and free in all parts of what is a high baritone role, yet the carefulness of diction gently insinuates a dislocation from the character. What happens is terribly important to the young man, but a little of him may sense it is also a charade.

Jocelyne Taillon must now always feel herself caught in a charade as she lends her beautifully modelled Geneviève to production after production. There is also, from Jean-Philippe Lafont, a Golaud who has come to stay: a powerfully built bull of a man singing with grim force. Sylvain Cambreling gets unruly but eagerly forward playing of a score incorporating emendations Debussy made after publication: the most notable and valuable is the addition of four solo violins to the flutes right at the start of the second act, modulating a too brilliant timbre. There are further performances tonight and on Sunday.

Paul Griffiths

● The first exhibition ever devoted to English Rococo, subtitled "Art and Design in Hogarth's England", is to be mounted by the Victoria and Albert Museum, opening on May 16. The exhibition includes loans from public and private collections in the United States and France as well as Britain, and is to include a reconstruction of part of Vauxhall Gardens, complete with supper boxes and Roubiliac's statue of Handel.

Enter the bashful showman

The Times Profile
Lord Bernstein

When, over the years, reporters have questioned Lord Bernstein, pioneer figure of the twentieth-century entertainment world and founder of Granada Television, about his life, he has invariably replied that it has been "90 per cent Luck and 10 per cent Good Luck". He insists on the capitals. It is a short, memorable, showman's phrase, and Bernstein has always professed to be a showman. It is no accident that when Granada was established as one of the first four independent television companies in the mid-1950s, he ordered that a portrait of Barnum, the famous American nineteenth-century circus impresario, be hung on every office wall. It is our duty, he would say, to entertain the public.

To canniness about what people want and respond to, and personal modesty about his own ability to provide it, must be added a second, apparently contradictory trait of character: a desire for secrecy. Bernstein needs privacy. Almost every activity he has engaged in is marked by a determination that as few people as possible should know of his involvement – whether it be his role in the anti-fascist movement of the 1930s, his long crusade to find a site and backing for the National Theatre or his acts of personal generosity.

It is no accident either that he has reached his 80s – he celebrates his eighty-fifth birthday on Monday – with his name absent from most of the ventures that he has been part of, and that of the really successful British entrepreneurs of this century he is probably the least publicly known. His contribution has always to be discovered from others.

Not that this contribution is easy to assess. It cannot be summed up in neat, progressive steps. There are not only his measurable achievements but all those others which he initiated, or paths that he took for a while, then turned away from, such as politics or film production. Had he persevered in almost any one of them, those who worked with him say, he could have accomplished anything. The brilliance, the drive, the energy are there. Yet at the last minute, he seems always to have stopped short of final commitment, with the result that he has excelled in many areas but reached the highest point in none. Such hesitation makes him a more approachable figure; it also makes him harder to interpret.

The business acumen, which came to him early, has served largely to finance the rest – the plays he loves to put on, the pictures he hangs not just on his own walls, but on all walls over which he has some say, the educational experiments he is concerned with. About himself, he is prone to say that he should have been an architect, for that was where his true talents lay.

Sidney Lewis Bernstein – old Granada hands refer to him as SLB – was born the same year and in the same East End corner of London as Alfred Hitchcock, the man who became one of his closest friends and whose films he produced. He was the second son of a restless, relatively prosperous businessman who had the fortune and foresight to buy himself into the music hall business precisely at the moment when theatre entertainment was reaching a peak popularity.

Bernstein soon showed himself to be more inventive and determined than his eight brothers and sisters, a lean, somewhat fastidious boy with formal good manners and an alert, quizzical smile. By the age of 15 he was begging his reluctant parents to let him leave school and join the business. In any case, he was already a truant, sneaking away to the Ilford Hippodrome for the matinées, to Covent Garden to see Diaghilev, or to Oswald Stoll's Colisseum, where actors performed Roman chariot races on the revolving stages.

Any uncertainty about the final form his future would take was dispelled by the sudden death of his father. The heir to four suburban theatres, Bernstein now led the large family – his elder brother Selim had been killed at Gallipoli – conscientiously and soon very profitably through the 1920s, supervising his brothers' education and his sisters' betrothals and taking his father's place at Friday night Sabbath celebrations.

A new theatre opened every three months

In describing his life, Bernstein frequently alludes to lucky encounters with the people who, he declares, were really responsible for shaping his interests: Arnold Bennett, who introduced him to the theatre, Iris Barry, who taught him about music and the cinema, H.G. Wells, James Agate, Eisenstein, Sean O'Casey, Teddy Kollek, Charlie Chaplin and many others. To what extent luck of this kind is really luck is highly dubious, but it is certainly true that his meeting in Paris in 1925 with Theodore Komisarjevsky, the Russian theatre director and designer, shaped not just his personal future but that of the British film industry.

By the early 1930s the two men – Bernstein extremely courageous when it came to taking risks, Komisarjevsky highly inventive but also dilatory – were constructing palaces of entertainment in the London suburbs, vast theatres outrageously blending architectural styles, where thousands of people came and marvelled at the marble and the glass, the chandeliers and the carved ceilings, the frescoes and the gold. In 1935 a new Granada was being opened every three months.

Bernstein's interest was not just in appearance. He had returned from a long tour of America convinced that a combination of music hall and the new talkies, with as much ceremony and splendour as could be engineered, were exactly what was needed to provide an escape from the economic fears and dreariness of the Depression. He showed the best Hollywood could offer in the Granada cinemas, and also became a founder member of the Film Society, formed to introduce the masterpieces of European and Russian cinema to a British public that would not otherwise see them. And he built a theatre of his own, the Phoenix, which he opened with the first performance of *Private Lives*. Noël Coward, Gertrude Lawrence, Laurence Olivier and Everley Gregg made up the cast. Komisarjevsky designed the Phoenix, and Polunin painted it in the style of Giorgione, Titian and Tintoretto.

It was during the 1930s that the mania for detail which became the hallmark of his professional and private style was born. What surprised friends and colleagues was that he could keep so much in his mind at any one time. His unannounced visits to the Granada cinemas became a weekly nightmare for the managers, who learned to dread the arrival of the white Minerva and Bernstein's rapid tread on the steps – a tall man, he moved at great speed, collecting in his wake apprehensive employees – as he called out: "What is this ash doing?" and "Why haven't the posters been changed?" or "That usher has filthy gloves".

This obsession that all things Granada should be best, allied with small foibles – later, legends built up that Bernstein frowned on beards, dangling earrings and suede shoes – brought him respect but also fear. The charm and drive was real, but it could all be a little tough. The toughness was real too. If crossed, cheated or maligned he instantly sued, taking distinct pleasure in the process of litigation, and leaving an assortment of successful libel cases behind him.

He lived in style. He kept a horse and rode in Rotten Row before breakfast. At St Moritz he acted as brake for the Argentinian team on the Cresta run. And if walking across Europe with a knapsack on his back remained his chief pleasure, often with the poet Laz Aaronson as his companion, he was also to be found at London's *thé dansants*, or in the Cafe Royal talking books and pictures with Raymond Mortimer and Augustus John. In November 1936, to the surprise of friends – for Bernstein was as secretive about his love affairs as his business ventures – he married a journalist called Zoë Farmer. She was 24. They were not suited, and the marriage did not long survive the war.

The son of Orthodox Jewish parents, Bernstein has never been particularly religious. But he took up the cause of anti-fascism when he was very young. In 1933, when the Reichstag trial was being prepared in Germany, he provided money and contacts to set up a counter-trial in London, one of the first unofficial trials of its kind, attended by some of the finest Anglo-Saxon legal minds and at which the Nazis, rather than the hapless Dutch suspected arsonist van der Lubbe, were put on trial and condemned.



SIDNEY LEWIS BERNSTEIN
Born January 1899, Ilford, London
Educated Coopers Company School, Bow
1916 Joined father's company Film Agencies Ltd
1925 Founder member of the Film Society
1930 Opened Phoenix Theatre with first production of *Private Lives*
1934 Granada Theatres Ltd floated
1948-1951 *Producer in Hollywood* with Alfred Hitchcock
1956 Launched Granada Television
1969 Made a Life Peer
1979 Retired as director and Chairman of Granada to become President of the Group for life.

Marriage and family life pleased him greatly

The late 1940s were an uncertain time in his life. He hesitated about what direction to take (Eileen Wilkinson proposed that he take over the Arts Council now that Maynard Keynes was dead) and finally chose Hollywood, joining Hitchcock as his producer and leaving Granada in the capable hands of his brother Cecil, his closest associate until his death in 1981. The result was three films, *Rope*, *Under Capricorn* and *I Confess*, not Hitchcock's best, but a great deal of fun.

In 1952, he packed up and came home, rather shrewdly since Hollywood, bedevilled by McArthy's witch-hunts, the new anti-trust laws and the advent of television, was just embarking on the gloomiest phase of its history. Within a year, he joined the race for the independent television contracts, returned his formidable powers of concentration to the future of his company, and married again. This marriage, to a Canadian, Sandra Malone, was to be a success: three children and the domesticity of family life pleased him greatly.

Granada rapidly became the most respected independent station, with an unparalleled reputation for investigative journalism in programmes such as *Searchlight* and *World in Action*. His battles on behalf of the company left casualties along the way. The survivors seemed imbued with what sometimes amounted to a kind of hero worship.

More important, when someone had a good idea and convinced him of it, he would champion it. He saw television as a new medium with which to challenge received wisdom.

Politics are a matter of faith, not argument

However, not even so enormous an enterprise as the creation of Granada Television kept him absorbed for long. By the early 1960s Bernstein was already searching for new ventures and Granada began to absorb publishing houses and bingo, foreign television stations and television rental agencies. Privately, he was busy endowing chairs of drama and landscape architecture in the North of England, the "Granadaland" he made so particularly his own.

When, in the summer of 1969, Sir Harold Wilson offered him a life peerage, some friends were surprised that he used the House of Lords so infrequently as a platform for his solid Labour views, staunchly held since he first became a councillor for Willesden in 1925. Others, however, believe that Bernstein's politics are a matter of faith, not argument, that what he enjoys is reasserting certain tenets of belief and that political debate loses all its charm for him once it is reduced to caveats and the need to accommodate.

In July 1979, when Bernstein had passed his eightieth birthday, he announced that he was retiring as director and chairman of the company to become president for life. His nephew Alex, son of his brother Cecil, took his place as executive, heir to an enterprise that had transformed itself in 57 years from four suburban theatres to one of the most successful of modern British businesses.

Can curiosity be a determining trait in a man's character? Others have been as determined, as secretive, as far-sighted as he is, with as much flair for drama, for making money and building empires. Though perhaps more single-minded, more narrowly focused, they have not been as curious. Bernstein needs to know about everything, whether it be the mechanism of a new camera, the potential in the drafting of a new law, or what that green thing is on the plate of the man sitting at the next table. The manner in which he demands the information is invariably charming and courteous, though it can be imperious, but the fact that he demands it at all is what marks him out.

Caroline Moorehead

The author's biography of Lord Bernstein is published today by Jonathan Cape, price £12.95.

moreover... Miles Kington

And all that jazz . . .

Something amazing is due to happen this year. It looks as if the National Jazz Centre will actually open this year in Floral Street, Covent Garden. As if to celebrate in advance, their concert wing is organizing between now and March a nationwide tour of five bands playing 50 concerts, under the generic title "Jazz Is . . .".

The amazing thing about this is that jazz is generally the least organized sort of music. Far from fixing a centre, the jazz fraternity would find it hard normally to fix 50 concerts, or even a generic title, come to that. Last October, for instance, I was given a preview tour of a new Jazz Museum in New Orleans, due to open in a couple of weeks time. There would, I supposed, be a grand opening ceremony.

Not quite, said the curator. The museum had been due to open in March, at which time many bands had offered their services free. The opening ceremony *had* taken place in March, everyone had enjoyed it, but for one reason or another they had lost rather a lot of money on the day, and had also had to announce that they would not be open for another six months. Now that they were really about to open they could not afford another ceremony and the bands were understandably leery about turning out again.

That, I fear, is more typical of the way jazz tends to be organized. But the Jazz Centre people have shown all along, for more than a dozen years, a determination and planning ability which are a source of constant amazement. When the Jazz Centre opens it will be the only place of its kind in the world, with concert area, rehearsal rooms, bar, club room and almost everything.

I say *almost* everything, because even the best jazz centre cannot provide everything.

A brothel. Legend has it that New Orleans jazz was born in the whorehouses and pleasure palaces of New Orleans. Legend, as so often, turns out to be wrong: New Orleans brothels did not hire bands – at most, an occasional solo pianist – and the connexion is romantic wishful thinking. Well, can't this be put right? A small, plush, chandeliered brothel attached to the Jazz Centre, with good live music, would be good for publicity and business, even if there are one or two by-laws to be straightened out first.

A critics' bar. When the music is at its fastest and most furious, critics and reviewers like to be in another room, drinking. There is indeed a downstairs bar at Ronnie Scott's, no doubt for this very purpose, where critics can compose their sentences far from the distracting music. But we need more.

An all-night pub. Some trades, such as meat porters, have pubs which open at their peculiar hours, like 6am. Jazz musicians have peculiar hours. They play a job, drive back to London at 1am, and find all the pubs shut. All they ask for is a couple of hours drinking-up time.

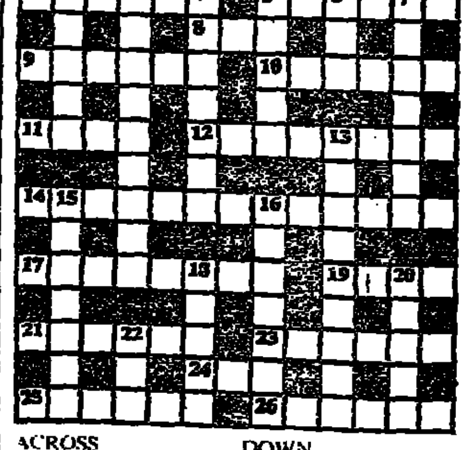
A Jazz Humour Reference Library. Jazz musicians have a fine, self-mocking sense of humour, almost more Jewish than Jewish, though sometimes opaque to outsiders. Example, a story told recently by Ronnie Scott. A famous tenor saxophonist dies and goes to heaven, where St Peter says that as a reward for his good deeds he can form a band from the best of all the jazz musicians already resident in heaven. No conditions, asks the tenorman? No strings attached? No, says St Peter, you have a free hand. Oh, there's just one thing – God is very friendly with this young girl singer, whom he's rather anxious to promote . . . None of these stories is ever written down. They should be.

A room with a piano in tune.

A reading and writing room, where jazz fans can pen letters to critics and broadcasters starting: "Dear Sir, I thought you were meant to be an expert, any fool knows that Benny Goodman couldn't have been on that record because . . ."

A complaints room, with a direct phone link to the BBC on which jazz fans can complain about the paucity of jazz on the air, etc . . .

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 258)



ACROSS
1 Plant shade (6)
5 Without principles (6)
8 In favour of (3)
9 Neck nape (6)
10 Splendid gathering (6)
11 Yearn (4)
12 Memoranda pad (8)
14 Voice thrower (13)
17 Permissive (8)
19 Pledge (4)
21 Unwholesome atmosphere (6)
23 Woodlouse family (6)
24 Governor (3)
25 Breathe in (6)
26 Artificial (6)

DOWN
2 Lawful (5)
3 Train bed (9)
4 Turkish title (7)
5 Group slang (5)
6 Solemn man (3)
7 Uneasy (7)
13 Middle class (9)
15 Wearing away (7)
16 Survive longer (7)
18 Proverb (5)
20 Tile mortar (5)
22 Mineral spring (3)

SOLUTION TO No 257
ACROSS: 1 Morrow 4 Beggar 7 Waft 8 Graffiti 9 Glissade 12 Gym 15 Brewer 16 Averse 17 Net 19 Dinosaur 24 Manicure 25 C[illegible] 26 Starve 27 Hassle
DOWN: 1 Mows 2 Refulgent 3 Wages 4 Braid 5 Gaff 6 Aptly 10 Steed 11 Eaves 12 Garrulous 13 Meek 14 Ebon 18 Enact 20 Inure 21 Obeah 22 Liar 23 Type

Richard Owen asks whether Moscow's Lumumba University combines teaching with terrorism

Third World studies in a cold climate

Moscow
"Let's get one thing straight", the Rector of Lumumba University, Dr Vladimir Stanis, said heatedly. "We do not produce terrorists. We produce doctors, scientists and engineers for the poor and oppressed countries of the Third World." He leapt up from behind his desk and strode over to a glass cabinet, pausing by a large tom-tom in the shape of an African mask. "This is from Mozambique", he said, giving it a resounding thump. He moved on to an ornamental silver plaque with an Aztec design, mounted on wood, "Mexico. And this is a giant carved grasshopper from Guinea Bissau, a present from the foreign minister."

The Rector returned to his desk. "No terrorists. We take students from poor, under-privileged backgrounds and educate them. There are plenty of places for bourgeois students in the West."

Lumumba – or to give it its full title, The Patrice Lumumba People's Friendship University – next year celebrates 25 years of existence, and the Russians are proud of its record. Founded in 1960 and named after the murdered left-wing Congolese Prime Minister, the university has turned out about 10,000 graduates over a quarter of a century. As the Rector says in his official handbook, *University of Friendship Lumumba*, graduates "are active in the economies of 110 countries . . . They are a vivid example of the practical realization of Leninist internationalist policy".

But are they also expected to be grateful to the Soviet Union, and perhaps to work toward the practical realization of Soviet foreign policy? The Russians are sensitive to this charge, and even more sensitive to the suggestion that Lumumba University is a kind of guerrilla training camp, turning out KGB-trained Marxist terrorists ready to sow mayhem and subversion at Moscow's bidding.

As Dr Stanis points out, there are no squads of freedom fighters visible from his study windows, no tough young men doing Kalashnikov target practice among the grim grey tower blocks of the windswept campus on the outskirts of Moscow. If there are training camps for participants in "national liberation struggles" – and groups like the Palestine Liberation Organization have received training in Russia – the Russians keep them well hidden. Dr Stanis vehemently denies that Russia trains terrorists at all. An ebullient man who has run Lumumba for 13 years, he raised the subject before I had a chance to consult my notes and promptly knocked it down as "gross and totally unjustified slander".

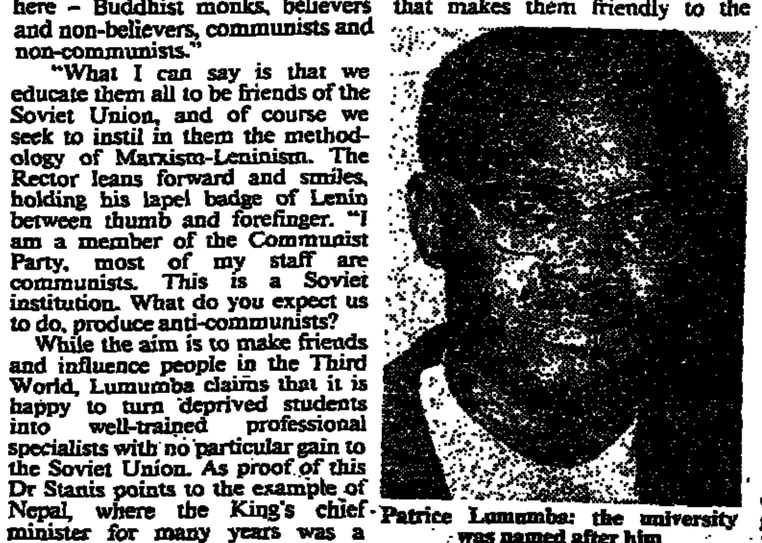
Dr Stanis is obviously used to being accused of running a centre for Third World subversives and spends much of his time on academic exchanges around the world trying to improve Lumumba's image. He wrily recalls a recent trip to New York where he watched a thriller called *Night Hawks*. The film depicts a violent and psychopathic international terrorist whose chief credential as a political gangster is that he "attended Lumumba University in Moscow". Many heads in the cinema turned to Dr Stanis when it was learned that the "terrorist chief" himself was in the audience. A stocky man with swept back white hair and glasses, Dr Stanis professes to find the incident amusing.

But if it does not foster political terrorism, does Lumumba aim to produce Communist or Marxist Third World graduates sympathetic to Soviet aims? Dr Stanis said it would be surprising if the university had any other intention. "We have students from all backgrounds here – Buddhist monks, believers and non-believers, communists and non-communists."

"What I can say is that we educate them all to be friends of the Soviet Union, and of course we seek to instil in them the methodology of Marxism-Leninism. The Rector leans forward and smiles, holding his lapel badge of Lenin between thumb and forefinger. "I am a member of the Communist Party, most of my staff are communists. This is a Soviet institution. What do you expect us to do, produce anti-communists?

While the aim is to make friends and influence people in the Third World, Lumumba claims that it is happy to turn deprived students into well-trained professional specialists with no particular gain to the Soviet Union. As proof of this Dr Stanis points to the example of Nepal, where the King's chief minister for many years was a Lumumba graduate, without turning the tiny mountain monarchy into a Marxist centre for destabilization on the Indo-Chinese border.

As a member of the World University Association, Lumumba teaches its students to be "both patriots of their own country and internationalist patriots as well". Would that mean proletarian internationalism, one of the central tenets of which is loyalty to Moscow? Dr Stanis replies that the main purpose of the university is to provide "countries emerging from colonialism" with specialists able to bring primitive and backward cultures into the modern world. If that makes them friendly to the cause of world communism, so much the better. "And don't try and tell me the training of overseas students in the West is entirely disinterested", he adds.



Patrice Lumumba: the university was named after him

As the then Soviet Prime Minister Aleksei Kosygin put it in the 1960s, Lumumba was founded to meet the need for higher education in countries "gaining their freedom from colonial dependence". The university, which at that time had older and more cramped premises nearer the centre of Moscow, started off with just over 500 students drawn from Africa, Asia and Latin America. It now has a sprawling new campus and about 5,000 Third World undergraduates from 105 nations. They study alongside some 2,000 Soviet students training as future advisers in Third World countries.

In the final analysis students are chosen for both aptitude and political leanings: applications (places at Lumumba are much in demand) are channelled through Soviet friendship societies or Soviet embassies. One of the most famous – or notorious – Lumumba students recruited in this way was Ilych Ramirez Sanchez, the product of a Marxist-minded Venezuelan family (though not one below the poverty line). As Carlos the Jackal Sanchez went on to give Lumumba much of its "terrorist training school" reputation, although university officials now disown him. The Jackal, they say, did not last much beyond the first introductory year of study and was expelled for his irresponsible behaviour.

There are no statistics on the drop-out rate, but officials say that those who fall at the first hurdle – a general one year course including Russian language study – tend to be sent home. The staff-student ratio at Lumumba is generous, with 1,300 teaching staff specializing in physics, mathematics, economics, law, medicine, agriculture and engineering. (Economics, oddly enough, includes a thorough grounding in capitalism, since many Lumumba graduates go back to capitalist systems rather than centrally planned economies.)

There have been instances of racism (though the authorities deny this), and some Lumumba students are attracted by Moscow's black market. But the university tries to integrate students into Moscow life through a combination of discipline and familiarization campaigns.

Down the corridor, in the reading room of the newly-built library, students sit poring over textbooks or perusing newspapers, the majority either Soviet or African and Asian English-language dailies. The only western newspapers available appeared to be the *Morning Star* and the *Daily World*, the organ of the American Communist Party.

In the main foyer students mill about under portraits of revolutionary heroes, including Patrice Lumumba (murdered, according to the latest Soviet articles, with CIA connivance) and Che Guevara. A noticeboard announces the results of a poetry competition: the winning verse is in praise of martyred freedom fighters who fell fighting South African tyranny or American agression in the Caribbean.

Lumumba accounts for an important part of Russia's aid to the Third World, though how much is not known. The overall figures are in any case disputed, since Moscow claims it gave $44 bn to developing countries from 1976 to 1980, whereas the Foreign Office puts the real figure at only $8 bn. But the Russians point out that the Third World is overwhelmingly in debt to the capitalist West, whereas Moscow offers developing countries economic and cultural aid designed to help them in their "struggle for decolonization". It is "selfless assistance" rendered to enable the Third World to extract itself from the capitalist, colonialist quagmire. Despite the drawbacks of a cold climate, an alien culture and economic ineptitude, quite a lot of Lumumba's 5,000 students will find the argument convincing.

BOOKS

Woodrow on the king of crime

Hardboiled old pro

Dashiell Hammett A Life at the Edge By William F. Nolan

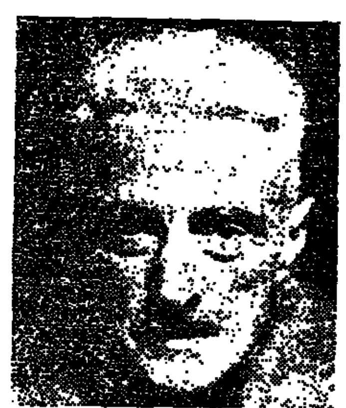
(Arthur Barker, £9.95)

The Life of Dashiell Hammett By Diane Johnson

(Chatto & Windus, £12.95)

Buffeted by his own good and ill luck Dashiell Hammett held on to the one stable element in his life. He was an American and proud of it. A veteran of two world wars, he claimed his right to be buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. This, as he probably hoped, infuriated those who thought a Communist had no business to be buried among war heroes who died defending the American way of life.

Hammett was a Communist in spirit, if not a card-carrying party member. During the thirties he was in Communist front organizations. It was as élitely fashionable to be a Marxist or Communist in Hollywood then as it was in Cambridge, England. Hammett was not dedicated to revolutionary subversion: that would have required much too sustained an effort. Gatherings in comfortable surroundings with like-minded self-conscious progressives and a hint of romantic conspiracy was about his limit.



Hammett hungover

The man was an ass, but not the villain portrayed by anti-Communist hysteria. For the last nine years of his life the tax authorities persecuted him into penury for back taxes, which a cruel boycott by Hollywood and others prevented him earning the money to pay. There is no political content in his novels and stories. His intermittent sources of income in his last few years (he died in January 1961 at the age of 66) were skimpy and disputed pensions from the Veterans' Administration. Without Lillian Hellman, with whom he lived on and off for 30 years, he would have been destitute.

But even when the money was rolling in he spent and gave it away without thought of tomorrow. His hotel bills were gargantuan. His extravagance was clinical. His life was wholly disordered, disrupted by drink and illness. Perhaps that is why he was attracted to what may have seemed to him the disciplined structure of Communism.

Hammett's formal education ceased at 14. He drifted through a variety of petty jobs until he was 20 when he went to work for Pinkertons, the celebrated detective agency. Apart from two years of the war he stayed with them until 1922, possibly the longest time he was steady in one occupation.

He became the first writer to describe detectives as they actually were. He knew professionally how a man was shadowed, how evidence was obtained, what the capabilities of firearms were, what happened when a revolver bullet hit someone and how the importance of fingerprints was exaggerated.

What Hammett wrote about crime and detection was authentic as well as brilliant and enthralling. No M. Poirot for him. He started a whole school of this kind of writing in which hardboiled detectives do not always have hearts of gold, though they may be roughly on the side of the law. Raymond Chandler and Erle Stanley Gardner and multitudes of lesser writers owe much to him.

But what he wrote was so original, imaginative and well executed that the money poured in from films and scores of editions in the United States and abroad. If he had let even half the money he earned stick in his fingers he would have died comfortably, a double dollar millionaire with all taxes paid. *The Maltese Falcon, The Thin Man* and *The Continental Op* alone would have been enough for a fortune.

It is unnecessary to buy both Diane Johnson's and William Nolan's books. The latter is shorter, cheaper and tougher. The former is longer, more expensive and more sentimental. The essentials of this archetypal world-weary man are in each, though they vary in details. It must have been very pleasant to meet Mr Hammett when he was sober, but unusually disagreeable when he was not.



Eagle-eyed: Buñuel on location for The Milky Way

David Robinson reviews the life and autobiography of the most original most uncompromising, and most popular of the world's great directors

The Master of Surrealism on the flickering screen

My Last Breath By Luis Buñuel

Translated by Abigail Israel

(Cape, £8.95)

Luis Buñuel went a long way. He was born in 1900 into a bourgeois Roman Catholic family in the Aragonese village of Calanda, where "the Middle Ages lasted until World War I". In his teens he arrived in Madrid to become part of a waywardly brilliant group of young intellectuals (Lorca and Dali among them). By the late twenties he was in Paris as one of the inner circle of the Surrealists and the creator of two monuments of Surrealism, the films *Un Chien Andalou* and *L'Age d'Or*. In the next 20 years he managed to be a film producer in Spain, an activist abroad for the Republican side in the Civil War and a victim of the McCarthy blacklist. In the fifties (and they were his fifties too) he reemerged as a film maker in Mexico; and during the next quarter century reaffirmed himself as one of the most original, uncompromising and (paradoxically) most popular of the world's great film artists.

All this happened to him – to judge from his autobiography – without any firm desire or determination on his part. His path in life seems to have been directed mainly by curiosity and a readiness to accede to any suggestion or request, provided only that it promised interest. The autobiography itself seems to have been done in much the same spirit. It was written down by his friend and collaborator, Jean-Claude Carrière; and provided Buñuel with some amusement in the last year of his life. The title is less a macabre joke than a cool observation. Buñuel at 82 was still as lucid and funny and ironic, as quick of wit and outrageous in opinion. "Don't ask my opinion about art," he says, "because I don't have any". Then he goes on to tell how he and two of his friends had thought of blowing up Picasso's "Guernica", but were deterred by their advanced age.

Buñuel delighted in paradox. His most famous saying, "Thank God I am still an atheist" dates from 1961 and *Viridiana*. Another paradox is how close his Surrealism is to a very Spanish reality. Most often the apparent irrationalities of his films were not spun out of the subconscious, but observed, with delight, from life. The book is full of examples. When the hero of *El*, suspecting a prying eye on the other side, jabs a needle through the keyhole, it is Buñuel's memory of the beach at San Sebastian in 1913, where the girls used their hatpins to repel peeping toms outside the bathing huts. The mysticism, ceremonial, mortality and sadism of religion in Catholic Calanda was rich in inspiration for the future Surrealist.

Nor was that "Thank God ..." so paradoxical. Atheism like Buñuel's can only be the outcome of original deep-rooted faith. In youth "we were worn out with our oppressive sense of sin, coupled with the interminable war between instinct and virtue." Perhaps some of the fascination of Buñuel's art is that even the Surrealist experience did not succeed in fully resolving the conflicts. For instance, he despises Latin *machismo*; and yet in his eighties it was still a trouble within him. There is guilty regret that he was never a womanizer (he stayed married for almost 50 years to his loyal Jeanne); and there is the Catholic Latin's anxiety about homosexuality. Paradoxical, again, because it is clear that the being he loved above all in his life was Federico Garcia Lorca. He relates a sad anecdote of a day when he indignantly demanded, "Is it true you're a *maricón*?" (which is a rude way of putting it). At 82 he still had not sorted it out, but mumbles with embarrassed apology, "There was absolutely nothing effeminate or affected about Federico". Then he passes with relief to happy memories of queer-bashing as a youth.

If his best friend bewildered him, Buñuel is uninhibitedly malicious about the sexual oddities of the friend who later proved an enemy, Salvador Dali, not to speak of "the famous Gala, the woman I have always tried to avoid." With deep regret he relates how he once stopped short of strangling her. Later she paid him out by trespassing in the dreams which were one of the lasting pleasures of Buñuel's life (second, perhaps, to his dry martini).

With 50 years' hindsight, he sums up the Surrealist achievement and failure: "Their aims were not to establish a glorious place for themselves in the annals of art and literature, but to change the world, to transform life itself. This was our essential purpose, but one good look around is evidence enough of our failure." He was certainly not very impressed with the world that he left last year – "kept in smooth working order by that technological 'progress' which has exiled morality and spirit to a far distant territory. Chaos, in the form of entropy, has assumed the demonic disguise of the population explosion." In leaving the world, though, he felt the regret of quitting a serial in the middle. Little as he liked the world and much as he hated the press, his final desire was that he might rise from the grave every 10 years and buy a few newspapers. "Ghostly pale, sliding silently along the walls, my papers under my arm, I'd return to the cemetery and read about all the disasters in the world before falling back to sleep, safe and secure in my tomb." It will be nice if he exchanges another jest or two as he passes.



Gentle genius photographed by Leon Herschtritt

Up the Brethren

The Brotherhood By Stephen Knight

(Granada, £8.95)

Mr Knight began his literary Mason-watching with *Jack the Ripper-the final solution*, and has followed it with a work promising all sorts of horrors, if *these evil men in aprons* are not extirpated from most of the usual occupations of the bourgeouisie. He pauses sometimes to mention the Royal Masonic Hospital and other good works funded by Freemasonry, but one feels that the praise is grudgingly inserted to give an impression of balance and fairness. Most of the book consists of documented cases of villainy on the part of Freemasons in the police, who are named; in large firms of solicitors (anonymous); and by one or two notorious con-men such as John Poulson. There are 750,000 Freemasons in the United Kingdom; and as 90 per cent of them joined in order to improve their financial lot, it would be surprising if none were corruptible, or made use of the enormous network available for the promotion of any kind of business.

Mr Knight's problem in writing about a semi-secret organisation is that he cannot prove or disprove. In *Jack the Ripper* he had a story, a hypothesis that fitted it, and a cast of characters all dead and uninterested in libel actions. It added up to a rattling good yarn. For his present work he was unable to get much help from the Brethren, and so it is largely written in early Chapman Pincherese, "I can now exclusively and breathlessly reveal for the first time-absolutely nothing". There are therefore, as padding, lists of City worthies known to be Masons who presumably don't bother to deny it, together with a description of their regalia.

These last, and the rituals performed, are mostly the products of a fevered 18th century imagination. The oaths sworn are fairly bloodcurdling, but not at all secret, as they can be found in Mackey's *Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry*. A friend of mine, who got no further than initiation, was quite impressed with the first part of the ceremony – he was blindfolded at the time, and could not walk very well, as he was allowed to wear only one shoe. When he was able to see he recognized various former schoolfellows he had hoped never to meet again, and was then given a lecture on the virtues of chastity and sobriety by a man he knew to be a drunk who was living with somebody else's wife. He therefore made his excuses and left.

The last chapter left me with the impression that the Worshipful Grand Master of World Freemasonry is without doubt Mr Andropov (if he is still with us) and that the KGB has already got its feet well under the table at No 10 Duke Street, which we are told is HQ. I may, of course, have confused him with Archbishop Fisher, who is also reckoned a baddy, because he (a Mason) prevented any form of investigation by the Church of England into the influence of the craft and its compatibility with Christianity. Roman Catholics are still forbidden by their church to join, and the chapter on papal attitudes both historical and contemporary is the best in the book.

I am still left in the dark about why so many highly intelligent and successful men need to be Freemasons: they already have the power and the money, and if they want a God they can always go to an established Church dressed in ordinary clothes. Why then the aprons and bogus mythology? Perhaps the author will tell us in his next exposé – provided the Black and White Knight of Kadosh doesn't get to him first.

Christopher Parsons

Trevor Phillips reviews Roy Kerridge

Black on white on black

Real Wicked, Guy By Roy Kerridge

(Blackwell, £8.95)

Authors who use slang titles want readers to know from the word go that they are about to be led into a secret and dangerous world by a wise and knowing guide. Unfortunately fashions change quickly; Roy Kerridge's efforts to convince us that he has a special insight into Britain's black communities falls apart from the title page onwards. Someone should have told him that the expression "real wicked, guy", which can have a whole range of meanings between good and sensational, passed away as a current streetwise exclamation some time ago.

This is an outsider's book. That by itself isn't a condemnation. The stranger's eye can often reveal truths about any community that have been unseen or hidden because we'd rather not see them. And unfortunately, this tourist account of his ramble through the black community has produced a confusing, offensive and frequently pernicious little tract.

It is light on fact and long on impression. Nowhere in its 200 pages, for example, will the reader find out anything as simple as the number of black people who live in Britain.

But to Kerridge the absence of fact hardly seems to matter. His stock in trade is the use of highly coloured portraits of acquaintances we are meant to accept as typical. The fact that most of the names used are "fictitious", as the author's note says, doesn't inspire confidence in their reality. And he stretches our credulity by attributing the most preposterous views to them. For example, we are asked to believe that a black South London housewife describes the National Front as "perfect gentlemen, very quiet".

It's not surprising, though, that Kerridge avoids factual material. On the few occasions where he essays any simple research he usually gets it wrong and frequently in the most grossly insulting fashion. The brown skinned Jamaican leader Michael Manley, who is a son of one of Jamaica's oldest families, is described as "to all intents and purposes, a white man". We're told that a particular form of reggae music, called "lover's rock" originated in Jamaica. In fact, it is probably the only purely British form of reggae music, invented and popularized by schoolgirl balladeers like Janet Kay and Carroll Thompson.

This kind of sloppiness could be dismissed lightly if the book provided any real insights to the character and personality of the black community.

However, there is another, more dangerous side to this book. Bigotry is always hungry for new slogans. And Roy Kerridge provides a feast. In the first 20 pages we are told without a sniff of evidence in quick succession that "mugging" originated in West Africa, that African wives are sold for nothing when their husbands get tired of them, that the KGB had prostitutes supplied by black "ponces". We hear once again the ludicrous old saw that "husbands are thin on the ground in West Indian households", and that West Indian men are temperamentally unable to be businessmen (they become "unhappy and troubled"), though their wives make excellent market traders – in Africa. The only business, it seems, that blacks can shine at is "... the illegal selling of drink ... to which they take like a duck to water".

This kind of racist nonsense even extends to the black church. He describes churches populated by "tragic looking girls" and "foot-shuffling" young men. This is light years from the reality – a dynamic, self-aware and businesslike movement, that attracts tens of thousands of stylish and ambitious young men and women.

And finally in the course of an extraordinary attack on the Rastafarian movement, he kindly explains that becoming a woman convert sometimes means "becoming a prostitute to support a God-chosen spouse". Kerridge even manages to take a swipe at the "dubious, moral influence" of the late Bob Marley, whose moral message amounted to the slogan "love and peace".

What seems to worry Kerridge most is the use of the term "black" to describe people of African descent. But it is a fact that today people all over the world use that word to describe themselves. Whether it's a personal problem – perhaps a consequence of his dislike of his African stepfather – or a political one, I don't know. But, like many people in this country, he still clings to the idea that "integration" means black people becoming exactly the same in behaviour and outlook as whites.

It's a view that withered during the seventies with a rise in black consciousness all over the world. Surely we've learnt by now that what's needed is a real understanding of differences amongst people; this book doesn't help in that task. Rather, it's a vulgar and bigoted assault on all the things that give black people pride and identity.

Fiction of the week

Learn about women from me

From Sleep Unbound By Andrée Chedid

Translated by Sharon Spencer

(Swallow, £12.75, paperback, £6)

Natural Victims By Isabel Eberstadt

(Chatto & Windus, £8.95)

Painting Water By Teresa Waugh

(Hamish Hamilton, £8.95)

A sensitive and thwarted woman, who has never given or received the love of which she is capable, lies in psychosomatic paralysis, watched over by her embittered, spiteful sister-in-law, visited by the perfunctory kiss of the lumpish, uncaring husband to whom she was consigned at the age of 15. There will be one kiss too many. *From Sleep Unbound* begins dramatically: but much of this delicately composed, elegant novel is a gentle and simple story of a woman searching for herself in a world of callous, unimaginative male supremacy. Andrée Chedid writes in French. She was, however, born in Cairo and evidently understands with great compassion the predicament of such women as Samya, her central character, in the Egypt in which the novel is set. The writing, disclosing bitter, painful truths, is deceptively lyrical: yet the story does more to convince readers of the misery and desperation of people like Samya, whose natural power of loving will know no requital, than many longer, more strident books asserting the right of a woman to be herself, and consequently so much more. The translation seems to be extremely successful, though readers may perhaps be warned that the pretentious introduction to the book will do very little to prepare them for its excellence.

The *Natural Victims* of Isabel Eberstadt's title are, it would appear, the "visible rich". Mrs Melmore is a supercool, American widow of an unbelievably *(sic)* rich and powerful monster, searching for her grievously deranged daughter in Paris. Fleeing, most understandably, from her dreadful family soon after her father's death (a matter of some mystery), the poor girl is endowed by the terms of his will with considerable funds. She is exploited in turn by a ferocious lesbian and a group of political ingenues. After a disastrous encounter on a street corner with her mother, she falls into the hands of an unusually evil compatriot, Jack Straw and his disturbed accomplice, Maurice.

Mrs Melmore enlists, then discards temporarily, the aid of a dowdy, eccentric sister, whose principal function in the novel seems to be to allow Mrs Melmore to embark on long retrospections about their girlhood, her excruciating experience of marriage and motherhood, and everything else which leads up to the story so far. These conversations are counterpointed in the early sections of the book by terse, vivid chapters about what is actually happening to Mrs Melmore's daughter, Sarah. Up to a point these are gripping and effective. The structure is, however, wantonly elaborate, embellished by affected chapter-headings; often the narrative strains for effect, while dialogue that should have been tense is banal, limp, even otiose. Mrs Melmore herself, allegedly a supremely sophisticated, high-spirited, immensely assured and attractive woman, is presented as vacillating, vain and vapid, falling prey to the illiterate, predatory hick whose curious "powers" have already enthralled her daughter. The contradictions in her character and her own image of herself are excelled in their demands on the reader's forbearance only by the coincidences upon which the plot depends and the melodrama of its resolution.

By contrast, *Painting Water* by Teresa Waugh is a novel of unassuming but certain quality. It is a straightforward story of the life of placid, pretty, contented woman, married to a suburban estate agent who is devoted to the cultivation of his garden. In her relationships with her parents, sister, husband, children and friends, Alice Taylor always makes the best of this world made possible and tolerable for her by her own kindness and decency. At the same time, this gentle novel is illuminated with wit, moments of high comedy, occasional farce and flashes of delightful sarcasm: not least in the exposure of the fatuities of fashionable liturgy which offend the humanist as much as they do the faithful. The ironies built into the plot are neat and credible; but there is, sometimes, a whiff of patrician scorn lingering between the lines like expensive scent in a humble room through which someone fairly special has passed. The writing is lucid and beautifully accurate in its use of home-counties adverbs. Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable and eventually quietly moving book.

Stuart Evans

Crossing the bamboo-pattern bridge





Woodcuts of the thirties show peasants denouncing landlord on the left, and soldiers helping with the harvest

The Heart of the Dragon By Alasdair Clayre

(Collins, £12.95)

"I had never seen anything that bore any Manner of resemblance to them in any Part of the World that I had been before." So wrote an incredulous Pére Attiret from Peking in the late 1740s, and one sympathizes with the Jesuit father. At least China may once again be visited; but does that make it any the more comprehensible?

Attiret was talking about the exquisite gardens of Peking, (and, in doing so, set about a fad for cod chinoiserie which dogs us to this day) but he might as well have been referring to the Middle Kingdom itself. There is a lazy turn of mind which suggests that had Chiang Kai Shek not proved such an awful general, and Mao been driven back into the mountains whence his army came, China would have gone down the path of the rest of Asia, egged on by Henry Luce, a haven of Holiday Inns, wide-eyed GIs, and phoney orientalism, just like Thailand, the Philippines, or even the exotic Threadneedle Street materialism of Hongkong.

It simply isn't so. One of the main tasks of any book such as this is to explain to those who do not already know that what we so often regard as Chinese, socially, culturally or even gastronomically, is equally as foreign to the billion-odd inhabitants who make up the People's Republic. Conditioning? Perhaps, but if so, it is not recently done, and one need only read this book for the proof. It stems from Clayre's researches for a promising new television documentary series which begins on Channel 4 at the end of the month, and if there is a better general guide to China for those who have not visited the country, then I am unaware of it.

Quite why we are so ignorant of China is something of a mystery itself, and one which is not explained by the hostility of the nation to all but fellow travellers for nearly 30 years from the victory of the communist forces. Neither is it the case that China has always been reflected in the West's imperial mirror (though it frequently has); there have been enough dedicated Sinologists over the years to counter that form of indulgence.

Perhaps it is simply, as Clayre intimates, that China is so different to any of the social models which we know, be they communism, democracy, or dictatorship, and too allied to such distant ideas as Daoism and Confucianism that the bridge has traditionally proved too long to cross.

The author's approach is to break down his subject matter into logical areas of interest – believing, eating, correcting and so on – and to tackle each in terms of historical attitudes and modern practice. So the chapter on crime and punishment contains a fascinating account of the trial of a Nanjing cat burglar, predictably enough after her neighbour's television set, and an account of traditional attitudes to criminals.

The chief criticism of the book is the way it sometimes follows the form of the television series at its own expense. The introductory chapter, "Remembering", would have been more successful if it had been written as a genuine introduction, instead of mirroring the shape of the television series. In general, however, one can only applaud such a comprehensive venture, well produced and with copious illustrations both ancient and modern.

It may not spark that exquisite frisson of recognition which an experienced China hand feels upon recognising a fellow addict of the orient, but that is not its purpose. Beginners on the silk route should start here.

David Hewson



THE TIMES DIARY

Childish rules

A woman with a babe in arms was surprised to be asked to pay £2 for the child at the Unicorn Theatre, which boasts that it is the only theatre in London where children are put first. She was told at the box office that GLC fire regulations meant no one could be let in free. The GLC, however, points out that since the Unicorn is a club it is not bound by local authority fine regulations. Theatre clubs need no licence and therefore no fire certificate.

The Unicorn's administrator, Buz Williams, says: "We do ask the GLC for advice and we try to comply with their suggestions as far as possible, but technically the GLC has no authority in this matter." Apologizing for the entry fee for babies, he said this was to discourage parents from bringing along children of the wrong age for a particular production as they tended to be disruptive.

As for the fire problem, Williams says until the GLC allows the Unicorn a public licence, "as a club you have the privilege of paying extra to burn to death".

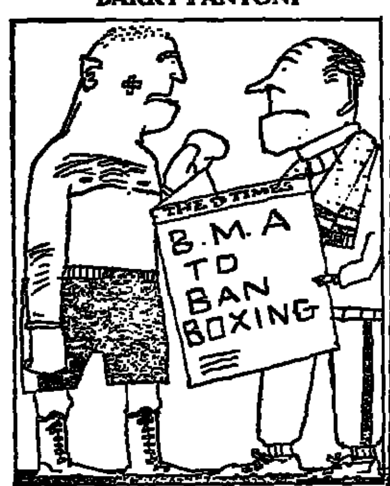
● **Perhaps Burns Night was not the most auspicious time to launch a *Good Curry Guide*, especially since one of the Swansea restaurants it mentions burnt down the day the guide went to press. Nevertheless, *1,137* of the *1,138* listed eating houses, from Penzance to Inverness, not forgetting Ireland, the Channel Islands and those in a foreign section, are still there – so far.**

Mycenae missed

It grieves me to report that the February issue of the venerable and previously unimpeachable *Illustrated London News*, published today, contains a blatant example of cooking the books. On page 54, readers will note the magazine's archaeology report number 3,000. but this, I can reveal, is a lie. The *ILN* has actually published nearer 6,000 archaeology reports, starting with one in its very first issue in May 1842. Numbering did not begin until 1960, at the behest of the late Sir Bruce Ingram, who edited the magazine for 63 years, but in counting backwards Sir Bruce went no farther than the beginning of his own tenure in 1900.

"It was a pretty conceit on Ingram's part," says the present editor, James Bishop, "to assume that nothing of significance in archaeology had been reported before his time, but before 1900 the discoveries reported in the *ILN* included Schliemann's work at Mycenae, Flinders Petrie in Egypt and the excavations at Nimroud."

BARRY FANTONI



"Don't tell Slugger – he's got a weak heart"

Pen and politics

Fresh from writing *Roche versus Adams*, published today, Stanley Adams is taking up a different pursuit from authorship, namely the European parliament. Mr Adams, who claims he was hounded round Europe after taking a stand against the trading practices of the multinational drug company Hoffman-La Roche, has put his name down in 10 British constituencies for selection as a Labour Party candidate for June's Euro-elections.

Hold that tiger

The reappearance of the supposedly extinct Tasmanian Tiger, otherwise known as the Tasmanian wolf and *thylacinus cynocephalus*, has caught the imagination of the American cable television mogul and yachting enthusiast Ted Turner, who has offered a $100,000 reward for a confirmed sighting of the beast. Turner, who won line honours in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race a few days before a new glimpse of the tiger was



reported last week, told PHS from his Atlanta headquarters: "It struck me like a thunderbolt when I saw the stuffed one in a Hobart museum. It would be real encouraging in these days of nuclear armament, when we're preparing to make ourselves extinct if we could find and may be save another species from extinction." The Australians are not so sure. The ranger who spotted the beast had kept quiet for 18 months to guard it against harassment, and now Rex Gilroy, of the Strange Animal Investigation Centre, says he hopes Turner's bounty won't tempt "ratbags with guns" to go hunting the shy tiger, which was last seen in 1936.

PHS

What Commonwealth?

by Enoch Powell

In a speech at Leicester last Friday I stated what I took to be a constitutional axiom: "All the public utterances of the Sovereign", I said, "are covered by the advice of ministers". Immediately it was announced on behalf of the Prime Minister that there is an exception to this principle, namely, when the Sovereign is addressing "the Commonwealth".

The consequences of that assertion, if it is valid, are peculiar and alarming; but fortunately I can examine it without criticizing the Sovereign or impugning her judgment, because ministerial advice that ministerial advice is not requisite is also ministerial advice, for which ministers must take responsibility and stand question.

If the alleged exception is valid, it must be valid whenever and wherever the Sovereign speaks "to the Commonwealth": it must apply equally on the Feast of Stephen and on Holy Innocents Day; it must apply whether she addressed "the Commonwealth" from London or Ottawa or Delhi.

Now, it has long been understood that the public utterances of the Sovereign to the people of a realm overseas, be it Australia or Grenada, are covered by the advice of her ministers in that realm. This proposition, admittedly, is not without its difficulties when the Sovereign is the same person in two or more realms where her ministers may tender divergent or opposing advice on the same subject; but so far the possibilities involved in these different capacities of the Sovereign have not caused embarrassment in practice.

The same principle however is scarcely thinkable in those countries of the Commonwealth which are republics and where therefore there are no sovereign or ministers. In what capacity does the Sovereign address the citizens of India? As Queen of the United Kingdom, visiting India as she might visit France or Israel? If so, her utterances are covered by the advice of her UK ministers, notably the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. Or is it as Head of the Commonwealth? If so, there are no responsible ministers by whom she can be advised, because the Commonwealth as such has no government and no ministers, and she must be speaking therefore without responsible advice.

The difficulty is magnified when the Sovereign is conceived as addressing "the Commonwealth" comprising some countries which she rules on the advice of the respective ministers and other countries over which she does not reign at all. This is not merely a curious conundrum. It is a situation which poses an insoluble problem for the Monarch, since there is by definition no common organ of consent and consequently no responsible ministerial advice on which she can constitutionally act. Expressed in other terms, "the Commonwealth" is not a political entity, or indeed an entity at all except in make-believe.

The title "Head of the Commonwealth", against which from the government benches I registered a lone protest upon the second reading of the Royal Titles Bill in March 1953, enshrines a paradox which 30 years ago two countries in particular conspired for their own purposes to ignore: India, in order to become a republic while forfeiting none of the privileges which allegiance had conferred, and Britain, in order to feed its delusion that the Empire was being transformed into something brighter and better still. The way had been paved, also deliberately, by the disastrous British Nationality Act of 1948, which purported to recognize a common citizenship based not upon common loyalty but upon adding together the citizenships defined by an ever-increasing number of independent states.

It was, incidentally, this severance of citizenship from political realities which made technically possible a huge and unintended settlement in Britain of Asian, African and Caribbean populations. It is the same severance which has placed the monarch in a situation constitutionally inexplicable and indefensible.

There is no doubt where the blame lies. It was upon the advice of the Crown's United Kingdom ministers that the chimera of the Commonwealth was invented and installed. Without the legislation, the UK legislation, of a series of British governments, the paraphernalia of a Commonwealth comprising 18 kingdoms, five other monarchies of which the Queen is not the monarch, and 26 republics, with our Sovereign as its purported "head", could never have come into existence. There is equally little room for doubt who is responsible for its continuance and who alone could end the constitutional contradiction in which the Sovereign has been caught up. It is Her Majesty's ministers in the United Kingdom – who else?

The author is Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South.

Jeremy Seabrook on the Prime Minister's politics of fantasy

An end to fairy stories, please

There has always been considerable public distrust of politicians arising from the discrepancy between what they claim to represent and what they actually achieve. This contradiction has lately become more marked; to such an extent that our political leaders not only do not stand for what they say they do, but in many cases clearly stand for the opposite.

An almost-symmetrical reversal of their historic roles seems to have occurred. Thus Labour becomes a conservative party, dedicated to preserving the health service and to safeguarding traditional industries, the very existence of which is threatened by the recent evolution of capitalism; while the Conservatives are increasingly the proponents of a regenerated laisser-faire formerly associated with the Liberals; while the Liberals themselves are fighting shadowy battles around electoral reform, a ghostly replay of campaigns for the extension of a franchise that no longer has anywhere else to go, a sort of vaporous Chartist crusade.

As for the Social Democratic Party, it clearly embodies the politics of nostalgia – that yearning for consensus which, in its way, is an echo of an older paternalistic hankering for traditional values that resisted the thrusting certainties of political economy.

The one thing in which this game of political musical chairs is consistent is that each position is well anchored in historical precedent. This does not mean that they have no contemporary relevance – after all, the Health Service is well worth preserving, and that Labour should be forced on the defensive does not undermine the value of that enterprise. Similarly, the new phase of capitalism requires the demolition of certain labourist defences, which the Tories have set about with enthusiasm.

But it bears little relation to the positions the parties claim to occupy. Thus, when Margaret Thatcher talks about sweeping away restrictive practices, modernizing and making way for the "third industrial revolution", it has nothing to do with conserving anything. Quite the reverse.

Similarly, while Neil Kinnock defends jobs in decaying industries, he does not look like a radical force in the country. And as for the belief that proportional representation would restore universal harmony, one can only wonder at the credulity of those who see the breakdown of consensus as a cause, rather than as a result of the present tensions between the various social and economic forces in the country.

In all these positions, the sense of fantasy is strong; as perhaps befits a country that has lived for so long off its past glory. All the references of contemporary politics suggest a recycling of history, an attempt to interpret a bewildering present and an uncertain future by the invocation of past experience.

This tendency was widely commented on at the time of the Falklands war; but it has been less obvious in domestic policy, even though it has been equally strong there, and perhaps more convoluted.

Mrs Thatcher, after all, came to power as a deliverer. It was her intention to lift the yoke of the oppressor from the British people. That oppressor was, of course, the organized working class. The liberation she has pursued has, however, been able to call upon an earlier liberation from those constraints upon political economy, when it had to be freed from aristocratic interests still encumbered by restrictive practices like a sense of duty to the poor. The poor themselves also believed that they had a right to be protected from a destitution over which they had no control.

All the resistances had to be swept away of those who obstinately refused to see the workings of divine providence in the freedom of capital and labour to find their own balance.

That a replay of this ancient triumph is the real purpose of the Conservatives since 1979 is clear from the language on which their crusade has drawn. This time, the residual protests of the tradition that derives from the one-nation Tories have been easily brushed aside. It is the attack on labour that has been at the heart of the enterprise. And have not the trade union leaders become the new barons; has not the aristocracy of labour formed itself into an overweening power in the land; has Thatcher herself not referred to the Labour-controlled authorities as "the last vestiges of *feudal* power?"

The old threat of the poor, the fear of the mob has been displaced by fear of organized labour, and this has been assimilated in fantasy to an irresponsible and feudal power.

This has given Mrs Thatcher an easy and dominant role in the politics of fantasy. What else have been those didactic fables with which she has regaled the nation for five years – families not living beyond their means, what every housewife knows, that domestic imagery which leaps so effortlessly into more exalted truths about the nature of the universe, "those economic laws which simply cannot be abrogated".

Of course, the contemporary version of these ideas had a more immediate ring: Malthus's perpetual tendency of population to press against the means of subsistence have evolved into the greedy workers pricing themselves out of jobs, from which they are promptly evicted before our very eyes.

So the deliverance of capital from the fetters of stifling habit and custom, so that it may be free to work its impenetrable but beneficent wonders, has been a repeat of that earlier struggle. And it is this vigorous fantasy that has set the terms of political debate, and has determined the positions of the parties of opposition.

The sense of familiarity, of history repeating itself, of deja-vu even, serves as a useful and comforting cloak for the dramatic reshaping of our people in the interests of a resurgent and regenerated capitalism. It masks the real dynamic that is at work, reintegrating Britain into the global division of labour in the worldwide empire of capital.

The politics of fantasy offer a reassurance and security, both of which may be in scant supply in the strange new future that is actually being prepared for us. One day we shall have to be roused from the politics of fantasy, and see them for what they are.

It is unlikely that the awakening will be serene for large numbers of people in Britain. Indeed, Mrs Thatcher has already begun to prepare us for it: this is what she means in the new year message that coyly warns us that Britain will become "a chillier, bumpier, less cosy place."

TUC at Lovers' Leap — looking for the arms of its members

The TUC has had to undergo its most rigorous bout of self-criticism since George Woodcock asked, on becoming secretary more than a decade ago, "What are we here for?". He never satisfactorily answered his own question, so another generation is now having a go.

The result is *TUC Strategy* – 115 paragraphs and about 6,000 words long – which was nodded through the General Council yesterday in draft form. It will now go out to TUC committees as the first stage of a wide-ranging consultative process, culminating in a report to the September congress in Brighton.

Bearing the personal imprimatur of the general secretary, Len Murray, the six-part document examines "trade unionism in a changing Britain", the aim and objectives of unions, their functions, the effect of recent changes and their future beyond 1984.

Delegates to last year's congress voted three to two for an "objective reappraisal" of policies, and an urgent examination of why the trade union movement has failed to persuade its members adequately to support its policies, most notably the policy of voting Labour.

Introducing the published version of the paper yesterday, Mr Murray argued that when the trade union movement is once again accepted as being representative, then its standing with employers, ministers and other sectors of society would "ineluctably" improve. *TUC Strategy* admits there is a long way to go before that point is reached: "While workers' support for the movement's policies cannot be measured by the numbers of votes cast for the Labour Party at the general election, neither can the rejection of Labour's policies be dismissed out of hand; some polls indicated that there was a lack of support from trade unionists for some policies that in part mirrored the TUC position.

"This suggests that unions have not yet sufficiently involved members in policy development and have failed to inform members and win their support for union policies.

"Unions are certainly not winning all the arguments. They have real problems about communicating effectively with their members. In spite of their democratic structures, membership participation in some aspects of union affairs is less satisfactory than in others."

This assertion begs an important question: even if the unions were the consummate communicators that the TUC wishes them to be, would their members necessarily go along with the views of their leaders? The paper admits that the election of a second-term Thatcher government signified that "a major section of the British people was, at the very least, willing to tolerate a philosophy which ran counter to the post-war consensus on the welfare state and full employment".

The TUC is thinking about conducting a MORI poll among union members about the organizations to which they belong and the kind of policies and objectives that they would like. The likely outcome of such a consultative exercise would be to reinforce the political shift taking place within the labour movement, away from the values and attitudes of the blue-collar unions that have traditionally dominated the TUC.

Indeed, the document itself could have been written by a social democrat. It deals cursorily with the Labour Party, in two paragraphs which concede that Labour governments have been a "major factor" in achieving union objectives, but which also insist: "The basis of current TUC involvement in government owes much to Churchill's wartime coalition and to Conservative government".

This evident desire to distance the TUC from the party political activities of trade unions is presumably founded on the rhetoric heard at the rostrum in Blackpool, when non party-political white-collar unions argued for a looser relationship with Labour in the wake of the disastrous election result.

The moderates who now control the TUC General Council regard the discussion paper as a good start. The left is understandably dismayed, but it cannot offer a rival prescription for the future, and in the absence of an attractive alternative it must be assumed that the moderates will get their way.

TUC Strategy may be a case of the bland leading the bland – and one deputy general secretary to whom I showed it on a train journey fell asleep during the task of reading it – but it looks like being the springboard for a movement to realign the British labour movement so that it more closely resembles the Scandinavian or West German model.

Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Ronald Butt

A thinking centre for government

"I claim not to have controlled events but confess plainly that events have controlled me." Every politician could say the same as Abraham Lincoln, but understandably virtually all of them refrain. Even Lincoln's candid admission that his actions had not been determined by his deeply held personal conviction that slavery was wrong, but had evolved pragmatically in defence of the nation and constitution, was made privately in a letter.

Yet for politicians to accept the imperatives of necessity and try to use them wisely is usually the better part of valour, and is nothing to be ashamed of. To fight for a wholly untenable position when the outcome is general ruin is never good politics. The best sort of politics is that in which the politician apprehends necessity and fights for it with the instinctive understanding that the fight should be fought and can be won because ultimately, it has public support. That was the essential character of Mrs Thatcher's struggle against inflation in the last Parliament. But what comes next?

With inflation beaten back to 5 per cent, and growth this year forecast at 3 per cent, Mrs Thatcher has decided that further economies in the public sector can be achieved only by improved efficiency, and that public spending reduced only as a proportion of the nation's total product by the growth of the latter. It is hard to quarrel with it in terms of immediate politics.

Many decades ago, the state took over responsibility for health, education and other essential services, and it cannot now take an axe to them if the result is to diminish the standard of state provision on which the overwhelming majority of the people has been brought to depend. But Mrs Thatcher appears to go further. She is disinclined to go further. She is disinclined to reconsider the basic structure, size and financing of the public-sector services in the long term. When, therefore, the axe of retrenchment is again brought out, it will as usual be directed at the easiest trees to chop, for lack of any clear scale of priorities.

The other day, on BBC's *Question Time*, Mrs Thatcher's former adviser, Sir John Hoskyns, again returned to his theme that ministers do not have time to think, and that nowhere in Whitehall is there a central body doing any long-term thinking. Francis Pym and Denis Healey, who were in the same discussion, insisted that they had time to think when in the Cabinet, but then they would. Few ministers, except in the confidence of personal friendship, are going to admit that it is all they can do to keep up with the papers shovelled in front of them daily, and with the schemes devised for them, in the hope of being able to master enough to avoid political danger. Besides, a thinking mechanism at the centre might seriously subordinate individual ministerial responsibility, which is the stuff of political dignity, to collective Cabinet responsibility.

Some Tory backbenchers have been brooding over these things and an idea has been mooted. It is that the Prime Minister should reactivate a dormant sinecure, the office of the Paymaster-General, placing the PMG in Number 10 at the head of something like a Prime Ministerial department which could undertake both forward thinking and the coordination of immediate policy-making. It could be a replacement of the Think Tank. But instead of consisting of inspired amateurs operating outside the mainstream Whitehall system, it would comprise politicians and civil servants working within the machine. All Whitehall papers would be copied to it.

In terms of current policy formulation, for example, it could help the Government to avoid the kind of departmental rivalries and muddle which have made such a mess of Housing Benefits and local government policy. Such a Downing Street department would also enable the Government to think ahead on such interrelated subjects as the shape and financing of the public sector, the interaction of welfare benefits and taxation, and the realities facing defence spending.

The Government, of course, has access to forward-thinking outside Whitehall. Although the Conservative Research Department has been down-graded by successive party chairmen and treasurers in search of economies, by means of staff cuts, the Centre for Policy Studies – founded by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph – has groups examining policy possibilities for such subjects as welfare. But it has to operate without access to Whitehall papers and the kind of information only Whitehall can provide.

A PMG's department answerable to Mrs Thatcher would, however, be so equipped. Such an idea naturally arouses dislike in other Cabinet ministers who fear it might develop into a White House-type machine which would help to create a presidential Prime Ministership. Yet if the Chancellor of the Exchequer can have a chief secretary in the Cabinet, why should not the Prime Minister have comparable help?

Perhaps because she does not want to stir up trouble, perhaps because of her coolness towards institutional change, Mrs Thatcher appears to have turned the idea down when it was floated in her direction through what might be described as impeccably loyal channels. That is a pity. The idea has the advantage of getting away from the illusion that Whitehall's machinery is best cranked up by imported outsiders and quasi-administrative initiatives. Such a Downing Street apparatus would be within the tradition of ministerial responsibility operating through the Civil Service. It is perhaps an idea before its time, but it could come again because the need will persist.

"Now at the end of three years' struggle the nation's condition is not what either party, or any man, devised or expected." That too is Lincoln, at the end of the same letter, but it might as well be Mrs Thatcher at the end of the first phase of her struggle against inflation. Where, then, do we go from here, what circumstances shall we have to confront, how do we confront them? Without adequate means of tackling these questions Mrs Thatcher may find that events have controlled her – not in the best sort of way, as they did Lincoln (or as they did herself in the last Parliament), but in the worst. In other words, they might get out of hand.

Paul Pickering

Toads that could land you in a hole

Other doctors' waiting rooms are stocked with *Punch*, or glossy guides to buying a country house, or the joys of killing wildlife at great expense. Perversely, my doctor prefers coffee-table books on deadly diseases. Usually these are quite depressing, but in one the other day I found a racy little paper on zombies.

One must be constantly open to new ideas, of course, and the GLC does give grants to some strange people. Even so, I had never dreamed that zombie-ism might be a particular problem in Kensington. But my sawbones must think it worthy of consideration, as does Dr E. Wade Davis in the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*.

A zombie, as every schoolboy knows, is a person who has been killed and raised from the dead by sinister voodoo priests called bocors. These bocors have thriving private practices in Haiti, as do similar priests in every part of the Caribbean and probably now in west London.

"Zombie-ism exists and is a social phenomenon that can be explained logically", says Dr Wade Davis, a Harvard scientist who has been working with Dr Lamarque Douyon, head of the Port-au-Prince psychiatric centre in Haiti.

They found that one of their customers, a M Clairvius Narcisse, died in 1962 but was still attending the hospital outpatients department. Under our National Health Service he would have been turned away as no longer eligible for treatment. But Haiti is a caring society.

The doctors found from the clinic's records that Clairvius had been pronounced dead at the local Albert Schweitzer hospital. He could point to a scar on his cheek made, he said, by a coffin nail and often put flowers on his own grave. His family didn't, because it was they who had murdered him.

A simple tale of Haitian country-folk, one might think, to which only the superstitious are susceptible, but not according to the doctors. Wade Davis believes that producing a zombie is not at all magical but the result of a powerful chemical cocktail which induces the symptoms of death. The main ingredient is a deadly nerve poison contained in the puffer fish called tetrodotoxin.

Many restaurants in Japan prepare this fish, a great delicacy if one has a kamikaze outlook. The chefs need a special licence, because to follow a cookery book is a recipe for the last supper. Wade Davis discovered two cases of puffer fish *aficianados* who recovered during their own funerals to the embarrassment of all concerned.

Employees of Japanese-owned companies in Britain can be assured that they will not get puffer fish and chips in their works canteens. "We only serve cod," said a canteen worker at National Panasonic. The Suntory restaurant in London said: "We don't do it. I heard of one chef doing this for the BBC and I hear no more of him." (Are failing producers at the Beeb invited to eat puffer fish rather than suffer the ignominy of enforced resignation?)

If you do not have a puffer handy, the bocars' other standby is certain types of toad that are described as veritable chemical factories. The World Wildlife Fund has recently reported that the *xenobus laevis* (no relation to F. R.) or African clawed toad from Angola has been multiplying in the Welsh valleys. Fortunately the mighty *Bufo marinus*, even more daunting, has yet to be found puddling around Pwllheli.

But, however plausible, this new American theory takes all the fun out of voodoo. Before long a Campaign for Real Zombies will be shuffling into action.

"Where are people going to get all those frogs and things from anyway?" said a devotee of the Brazilian macumaba voodoo who runs a videotape exchange in the Portobello Road. "It's easy enough to get the ritual candles and chickens."

Candles are fine and can be found all over Kensington, but live chickens could present a problem. They tend not to hear you at Harrods if you ask for one on the hoof. Nor did their delicatessen have either preserved toad or powdered puffer fish.

One obviously has to make do with what's available locally. So if you see someone lurking around Highgate Cemetery with a distressed pigeon and a box of Swan Vestas it could be the Campaign for Real Zombies. Or it might just be my doctor having one last bash at reviving a lucrative private patient.

TIMES PAST
THE TIMES
P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

PASSING THE BUCK

President Reagan's economic policy now goes into cold storage until after the election. Next week's Budget will duck the issue of the deficit. But the President cannot so easily put a freeze on the currency markets, through which the rest of the world will feel the uncomfortable ripples of this political year. Yesterday, just before his State of the Union address, the President put up his Treasury secretary Donald Regan to talk via satellite with financial journalists in seven European cities. The aim was to reassure America's restless trading partners that the free world's largest economy was in good heart and under firm control. It was not a convincing performance.

According to Mr Regan, Europe's economic troubles with America will all soon be over. The dollar will weaken during 1984, as American interest rates fall further and the current account of America's balance of payments remains heavily in the red. Lower interest rates and a cheaper dollar would please Europe, though it would also (Mr Regan is never one to miss a point for the folks back home) make American industry more competitive.

This "good news, bad news" syndrome, as put by Mr Regan, is just a little too glib. If the American recovery slows down even more this spring, the White House may well want to see interest rates fall in order to keep the wheels of growth turning until after the election. But Mr Regan refuses to accept that the size of his budget deficit makes this difficult. He points to Japan where the budget deficit is high and interest rates low – neglecting the different nature of Japan's heavily-controlled financial markets, and expressing the pious and improbable hope that Americans could be persuaded to finance the budget deficit cheaply by suddenly acquiring a Japanese appetite for saving.

President Reagan, too, has been cheerfully brushing aside the implications which his deficit has for interest rates. But his central bankers at the Federal Reserve Board are less optimistic – or disingenuous. They know that if interest rates are eased down this spring without any action to reduce the budget deficit, the markets may take fright. Internationally, that could precipitate, not a gentle downward realignment of the dollar, but the kind of slide that is unstoppable without a severe hike in interest rates later on. With a record current account deficit, America is asking the rest of the world to absorb an awful lot of dollars. Mr Regan listed the reasons they have been easy to place: low inflation, the boom, political stability and high interest rates. But when sentiment turns, the spectre of the "dollar overhang" that haunted President Carter's attempts to stabilize his currency could be stalking the world's financial markets again.

No British government in this position could face an election with the equanimity displayed by Messrs Reagan and Regan. But then the international side of their economy matters much less to the Americans: a slide in their currency would have only slow and modest consequences for inflation, and would take several months to touch the domestic political battle. The rest of the world would suffer sooner from a switchback dollar. If nothing can be done about the deficit until the election, the least President Reagan can offer his allies is greater honesty about what must be done thereafter. That means more realistic forecasts and acknowledgement that interest rates cannot easily and safely be brought down until the budget is brought under control. It also means acceptance that the tax "reforms" hinted at by Mr Regan must mean higher taxes; that spending cuts will not, practically speaking, do the job alone.

All this is politically difficult, but without a little honest guidance the markets may turn difficult too. And looking beyond November, it could pay dividends for the President as well.

THE SOVIET MEGAPHONE

It is good that President Andropov is still delivering copy to Pravda on the need to improve relations with the West, but less welcome is his continued criticism of President Reagan, suggesting that Moscow will make no attempt to reach agreement while the present US administration remains in power. It tends to confirm suspicions that his statement, released to foreign correspondents the day before publication, was intended more for readers abroad than to reassure the Soviet public that their leader is still firmly in control.

Despite repeated assurances that Mr Andropov will soon reappear in public, his absence since August has encouraged speculation that his faction is now acting in his name rather than under his direct orders, and it seems probable that Soviet policy on arms negotiations is now a holding operation based largely on proposals already dismissed by Nato countries as too vague to lead to any real agreement.

Mr Andropov is of course right to emphasize that dialogue must be "directed towards the attainment of concrete agreements" but quite wrong to excuse avoiding negotiations by claiming that the recent, more conciliatory speech by President Reagan contained nothing new. The West is ready to return to the proper place for negotiation – the conference table – although present Warsaw Pact proposals remain much the same as those issued in the Declaration produced at the Prague summit in January 1983.

A non-aggression pact would add nothing to Nato's permanent position as a defensive alliance, while presumably not altering the precarious relationship between the member countries of the Warsaw Pact which allowed Soviet armed intervention in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Nato's commitment not to use weapons, either nuclear or conventional, except in response to attack, is more valuable in preserving peace than would be an acceptance of the Soviet call to agree to "no first use" of nuclear weapons, whatever the action of the USSR.

Resuming the Vienna talks on mutual and balanced force reduction will allow the West to pursue the Soviet proposals of last June which might permit onsite inspections so that military observers from opposite sides could monitor the arrival and departure of troops into Central Europe. But there remains the large discrepancy in the calculations of East and West for the number of Soviet troops, severely limiting the chances of speedy accord.

For the Soviet statement to insist that there can be no return to INF talks until US cruise and Pershing 2 missiles are removed from Western Europe is quite unrealistic, especially after new Soviet missiles have been installed, with considerable publicity, in East Germany and Czechoslovakia on the excuse of "maintaining parity". In practice this would appear to mean "maintaining superiority", since in October 1979 President Brezhnev spoke of the "balance of forces" which had been achieved in Europe – yet while Nato deployed no cruise or Pershing 2 missiles until late last year, Soviet SS-20 missiles continued to be installed at an alarming rate.

Some 200 additional warheads had been added to the Soviet arsenal when in January 1983 Foreign Minister Gromyko stated that there was "rough parity" between the two sides. By last September even more SS-20 missiles had been deployed – still before the Nato modernization – and President Andropov was talking of the "balance in medium-range nuclear weapons".

Statements to the press by an unseen Mr Andropov will not by themselves achieve reductions in arms. A return to the conference tables in Vienna and Geneva might, and it should not be delayed until the outcome of the US elections is known – or until a more positive leadership emerges in the Kremlin. There is much groundwork to be done before any US-Soviet summit can be considered, presuming of course that there is someone in the Kremlin for the US President to meet.

LONDON ... DERRY

If you are Protestant and unionist the place is Londonderry: if you are Catholic and nationalist it is Derry. It sounds simple, but it is not. We are in Ulster.

In the first place most of the town's inhabitants, whoever they may be, regard themselves as Derrymen and call their city Derry, if only for convenience; unless they happen to be on a platform. Then the Protestant bishopric has never found it necessary to change to Londonderry at any time since the place was replanted as a colony by the City of London in 1610. The local cricket club is content with Derry, and no game on earth is less republican than that. Even the Apprentice Boys, one of the toughest manifestations of the Orange Order with some claim to have provoked the latest round of hostilities back in 1969, are the Apprentice Boys of Derry. It is not usage but history which governs reaction to the change of official name that has just been sanctioned.

The Londonderry City Council was notoriously gerrymandered under the old regime. The ward boundaries were managed so as to obtain a standing majority of unionist councillors out of a standing majority of nationalist electors. Since the reforms the SDLP has had control and has wanted to complete the job by erasing the British prefix in the name of the council. The council applied to the minister, Mr Christopher Patten, in accordance with the procedure of the Northern Ireland Local Government Act and he has granted the request. Only the name of the district council changes. The city itself remains Londonderry and will unless its royal charter is amended, so does the county. And we still have the Londonderry Air.

The political reaction on the unionist side is just what would be expected. The concession is represented as typical confirmation that the Northern Ireland Office (with or without the Foreign Office, the State Department and the CIA) is bent upon Irish unification; for is it not but a step from changing its name to changing its jurisdiction? Mr Patten must expect his name to be coupled with the traitor Lundy's. That may not disturb him. But his decision may come to plague the administration of which he is a member – and it was unnecessary when he had a perfectly good legalistic reason for no change: that the council should continue to take its name from the city it arises out of. For the wall of Londonderry is holy ground to the tribe. It was from there that the cry of "No surrender" first went up. It was the rampart of Protestant Ulster's civil and religious liberty.

Macaulay noted that the wall of Londonderry was to the Protestants of Ulster what the trophy of Marathon was to the Athenians. He found it impossible not to respect the sentiment with which it came to be invested. "It is a sentiment which belongs to the higher and purer part of human nature, and adds not a little to the strength of states." Yet the worm which makes the Englishman (even the occasional Scotsman) such an unreliable guarantor of the Ulsterman was at work in Macaulay too. He could not look with unmixed complacency on the manner in which Londonderry commemorates her deliverance. "The faults which are ordinarily found in dominant castes and dominant sects have not seldom shown themselves without disguise at her festivities." Nothing has happened in the intervening hundred and forty years to alter the basis of that judgment. Even Macaulay, the great justificator of the Irish wars of William of Orange, betrays symptoms of being a Northern Ireland Office man at heart.

Green belt land

From Mr Anthony Holland

Sir, Your leading article (January 12) is correct that the pressure on housing land in the South-east is not going to abate, but that should not mean that green fields and beauty spots should have to be despoiled to meet the appetite of house-builders.

In answer to a parliamentary question on June 1, 1981, the Defence Secretary stated that his department owned 56,192 acres in Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey and that this total had remained broadly unchanged since 1946.

I am also aware that it is MoD policy to reject pleas from the local authorities mentioned for land to be released for building. Indeed, this is evidenced by the lack of change in their holdings since the war.

With the ease of modern transportation it is economic nonsense for the MoD to hold on to much of this valuable land for training when so much of it could be done in remote areas. At least let them be forced to justify their requirements in a positive manner to an independent body.

If war is said to be too serious to leave to generals, the same can certainly be said for their assessment of military land requirements.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY D. R. HOLLAND
Windlesham Manor,
Windlesham,
Surrey.
January 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plea for progress on Namibia

From the Bishop of Manchester and others

Sir, South Africa's rejection of Swapo's January 10, 1984, ceasefire proposal amounts to yet another refusal to implement the agreed United Nations plan for Namibian independence (Security Council resolution 435, 1978). The consequence of this position will clearly be to prolong the agony of the war-weary populations of both Namibia and Angola.

The lack of public outcry in this country must stem partly from confusion bred by South Africa's presentation of the issues. Pretoria's position makes peace in Namibia contingent upon the achievement of South African objectives in Angola.

It is these objectives which lead to the current death and destruction in Angola, an escalating conflict in which Swapo's armed wing has no role at all. Indeed, contrary to South African claims, not one Namibian has been injured or even involved in the fighting in Angola in recent weeks.

Not only does South Africa refuse to comply with the five-year-old United Nations plan for elections in Namibia, but it has been in military occupation of parts of Angola since 1981 and the United Nations Secretary General's report of January 11, 1984, indicates that South African forces are not withdrawing, but merely retreating to entrenched positions further south.

The only sense in which a Namibian settlement can be linked to the situation in Angola is that South African withdrawal from Namibia in terms of United Nations resolution 435 (1978) would deny Unita and South African forces occupying and attacking Angola their military base in northern Namibia.

The fundamental fact obscured by recent media coverage is that South African forces have no right to be either in Angola or Namibia, which they have occupied in defiance of international law since 1971, causing enormous suffering on the part of black Namibians.

On January 7, 1984, South Africa's Foreign Minister admitted that his Government's position "can entail confrontation with the whole world." Yet there has been hardly a murmur of protest in this country. This silence amounts to complacency while two nations are held hostage by a regime whose policies our own Government has described as "abhorrent."

We appeal to all who oppose apartheid to condemn South Africa's current aggression and intransigence.

Yours,
†STANLEY MANCHESTER,
DENIS HEALEY,
RUSSELL JOHNSTON,
c/o The Namibian Support Committee,
53 Leverton Street, NW5.
January 16.

Calke Abbey and CTT

From Lord Saye and Sele

Sir, The President of the Historic Houses Association has, in his letter of January 21, drawn attention to the plight of those historic houses, and notably Calke Abbey, which are prevented by archaic family trusts from establishing CTT-exempt maintenance funds under the amending legislation of the Finance Act 1982.

My own lawyers advise me that there is no way in which I can break through the fetters of my family trust in order to establish the appropriate fund needed to secure the long term survival of this historic house.

It is indeed ironic that the family trust system devised in the last century to preserve historic houses and their estates from the ravages of profligate owners can yet prove in this century by their very inflexibility to be their undoing.

The maintenance fund of the Finance Act 1982 is therefore a haven from which some are arbitrarily excluded. This cannot have been the intention of Parliament.

Parliament alone can enact further legislation and it must be hoped that it will do so before other important houses involuntarily share the fate with which Calke Abbey is threatened.

Yours faithfully
SAYE AND SELE,
Broughton Castle,
Banbury,
Oxfordshire.
January 24.

Peace studies

From Mr Andrew McIntyre and Miss Vicki Newman

Sir, We read with surprise Lady Cox's allegations (January 9) that Schools Against the Bomb is one-sided when invited into schools. We find it disturbing that Lady Cox neglected to check the facts before her outburst.

Had she checked the facts, she would have discovered that Schools Against the Bomb exists to enable pupils to hear the full facts from both sides of the nuclear debate. Our aim is to let pupils make up their own minds on this basis.

To this end we distribute Government literature alongside our own, and refuse school speaking dates unless a pro-nuclear speaker is also invited.

We provide speaking services to schools for balanced debates and discussions. How can such regard for balance be labelled as political indoctrination?

Yours for peace,
ANDREW McINTYRE,
VICKI NEWMAN,
(National Organisers),
Schools Against the Bomb,
227 Seven Sisters Road, N4.
January 9.

Royal broadcast called in question

From the Master of Balliol College, Oxford

Sir, In your leader of January 21 you follow Mr Enoch Powell in criticising the content of the Queen's Christmas message. Mr Powell, punctilious as ever, insisted that he was not attacking the Queen personally but only the ministers (whoever they may have been) who tendered her advice about the speech.

You rebuke Mr Powell for being circuitous and disingenuous. In making the speech, you say, the Queen took no advice and therefore she must be criticised personally and directly for being so naive as to believe there is a gap between rich and poor countries and so incautious as to suggest that the rich countries should do something about that gap.

Hitherto, there has been a widely respected convention that the Queen should not be personally criticised. This convention does not depend on disputable constitutional niceties concerning advice received by the Head of the Commonwealth. It is based on two principles of decency: first that it is unseemly for a monarch to wrangle with one of her subjects; and secondly that it is churlish to attack someone who is thus prevented from replying to the attack.

You have chosen to violate this convention. A violation would be justified only if the Monarch was guilty of a flagrant breach of her duty to be above partisan issues. Did the Christmas message contain such a breach? On the contrary, the charge made against it by Mr Powell and yourself is that it urged us to put global interests above merely national ones.

There is no gap, you say, between rich and poor countries because there is no clear dividing line between the poorest of the rich countries and the richest of the poor countries. You might as well argue that there is no difference between day and night because there is no clear dividing line where one ends and the other begins.

It will be little comfort to those who live in countries where famine is a constant danger to learn that they have their place on a continuum variation in per capita incomes among all the countries of the world.

Some of your readers may be unconcerned by your lapse in logic; some may forgive your discourtesy to the Queen; some may be unmoved by your contempt for the world's poor; but few, surely, will be able to stomach all three at once.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY KENNY,
The Master's Lodgings,
Balliol College,
Oxford.
January 24.

From Mr Ian Peacock

Sir, There is a "gap" between rich and poor nations. It is not clearly revealed by per capita income figures, although some of these measures indicate that income is becoming more concentrated. Rather it is reflected in the problems which the different types of governments have to face.

For example, a poor nation's government usually has to tackle the problem of large numbers of people who have had to leave the agricultural sector and are seeking work in the towns. On per-capita income figures this group's living standards have improved – after all, when they were in the subsistence agricultural sector they had no money income whatsoever. However, few people who have seen the shanty towns surrounding major cities in the developing world believe that this group has so far benefited from economic development.

More generally, many governments of developing countries have to cope with the fact that a significant proportion of their population have nowhere to live and are threatened, constantly or intermittently, with starvation. This is a different kind of problem from that of poverty in the developed world and it is perhaps not surprising that the attempted solutions are frequently different.

To distinguish between rich and poor nations in this way is not "insidious egalitarianism" and implies no policy recommendations, apart from that of seeking to alleviate suffering, an aim common, I would hope, to both right and left.

The Queen's comment that the main aim of the Commonwealth is to redress "the economic balance between nations" does not mean, as you seem to imply, that income has to be taken from one group and given to another. The balance could equally well be achieved by ensuring that the means exist for those who are poor to become richer.

The important debate is then whether interventionism or the free market system is the better method to achieve this end.

Yours faithfully,
IAN PEACOCK,
28 Staveley Road,
Chiswick, W4.
January 23.

From the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford

Sir, Not many weeks ago you launched a gratuitous attack on the enthronement sermon of the Archbishop of York. Now you have overreached yourself by a supercilious and deeply offensive criticism of the Queen's Christmas broadcast.

Those who have followed your pronouncements on religious and social issues during the last year will recognise that these two bouts of sniping (from the cover of anonymity) are simply the most recent moves in a sustained political campaign. One of its aims is to protect public policy from Christianity.

Yours faithfully,
E. W. HEATON,
The Deanery,
Christ Church,
Oxford.
January 24.

From Mrs Nerissa Jones

Sir, Your second leader today is very shocking. No "gap"?

Let the Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, use plain words in her Christmas broadcast. There is a clear line of division between rich and poor countries and it should be the main aim of the Commonwealth to redress "the economic balance between nations".

"Gap" describes it better then your "continuous range in per capita incomes among all the countries of the world". That makes it easy to ignore Lazarus lying at the rich man's gate.

Lazarus knew what a "gap" was. So would anyone who heard with me last year these lucid, pitiful and true words spoken by one of the utterly destitute patients in a Commonwealth West African psychiatric hospital: "Oh, Sister, get me something to eat, or I shall die tomorrow".

The patient was wrong. It took him three more days to starve to death. "Gap" is the word.

Yours faithfully,
NERISSA JONES,
32a St Petersbough Place, W2.
January 21.

Church and remarriage

From The Reverend John Palmer

Sir, Clifford Longley's report (January 13) refers to a "revolt of the clergy (Anglican) on plans to remarry in church" those who have had a previous marriage end in divorce.

The headline is misleading; it is option G of Synod's proposals that have been decisively rejected by the clergy in many dioceses. The parochial clergy are well aware of the danger of pastoral breakdown between clergy and people that may ensue if option G is adopted.

The originators of the proposals for "remarriage" were motivated by the need for greater understanding, compassion and support for the many whose first marriage had failed, but somewhere along the line these motives have been overlaid by administrative and financial structures and at the moment there is a feeling that there is no real way forward on the road that Synod is trying to drive us up.

However there is a way in which the Church's expression of Christ's love can be shown without putting on one side the standards which Christ himself has given us. A lot of time and energy has been expended in producing the new ASB, but nowhere in that book can be found a service for use in church following a civil marriage (the words "blessing" and "thanksgiving" have been deliberately avoided as they can lead to divisive argument).

If such a service could be produced for general use and much made of it, instead of "pushing it in a corner" as is the tendency at present, this would, I am sure, be acceptable to most clergy and lead, as many of us have found, to a really worthwhile pastoral relationship with couples who wish to remarry and follow this by a service in church.

Compromises often satisfy no one; this is not a compromise suggestion but a way forward for the Church to show those very feelings of understanding, compassion and support that the Synod's present proposals are in danger of losing sight of.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. PALMER,
The Vicarage,
Four Marks,
Hampshire.
January 13.

Academics as judges

From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen

Sir, As one who spent some years as a part-time university lecturer, I am not unsympathetic to the proposal that academics should be eligible for judicial appointment, but I would venture to suggest an important limitation.

The academic lawyer, almost by definition, has less worldly and practical experience than the practitioner, who is in direct contact with criminals, estranged spouses, businessmen, landlords and tenants, and so on ad lib (depending on the nature of his practice, which may be specialised or very general indeed).

The academic, unless he has had some experience of practice, is also unfamiliar with the cut and thrust of forensic questioning and argument and with the procedure of the courts. He is, therefore, less likely to be as good a judge on questions of fact, which turn on the reliability of witnesses as well as on the rules of pleading and evidence, as the practitioner is.

If academics are to be appointed to the judiciary, then let such appointments be limited to the House of Lords. When a case reaches that ultimate tribunal questions of fact will have been conclusively decided, and the function of reconciling or resolving differences, apparent or real, between lines of authority in the lower courts – a function which often involves considerations of public policy and of jurisprudential logic – is one which the professor of law is admirably qualified to fulful.

It is at that level that he can contribute both to the correct decision in the case and to the proper development of the law.

I am etc,
GERSHON ELLENBOGEN,
2 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.
January 17.

Data protection reassurance

From the Minister of State, Home Office

Sir, It would be a pity if the two letters which you have published recently about the Data Protection Bill (January 10 and 19) were to arouse quite unnecessary fears about the Bill's implications for historical records.

The Bill establishes eight principles to regulate the automatic processing of personal data and one of those principles declares that such data should not be held longer than is necessary for their stated purpose. But I think your correspondents may not have fully appreciated the effect of the special provision (in schedule 1, part II, paragraph 7) to ensure that personal data can be held indefinitely for historical purposes. It is not necessary that the data should originally have been collected for historical purposes.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WADDINGTON,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
January 23.

Attacks in Tube

From Mr Christopher Hurst

Sir, The horrific story told by Mr P. M. Healy (January 13) of assaults on London Transport ticket collectors could not have happened on the underground systems of Washington DC and San Francisco, where both entry to and exit from the platforms are fully automated, or even on the relatively antiquated system of New York City, where the traveller has to buy a token before being able to operate the turnstile leading onto the platform and has to give up nothing at all on completion of the journey.

Presumably it is the unions who insist on the exit gateways in London being manned, and who could instigate moves which would make assaults of the kind Mr Healy describes largely avoidable.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HURST,
5 Brookway,
Blackheath, SE3.
January 13.

In wartime India

From Mr R. S. Bains

Sir, Mr Philip Mason claims in his letter (January 11) that the men who resisted attempts to join the Indian National Army were subjected to heavy pressure, torture and brutality. I would like to point out that this charge, although central to the prosecution case, was not conclusively established by the Advocate General of India.

During the trial which began on November 5, 1945, the prosecution council did try to prove the alleged ill-treatment of the Indian prisoners of war in order to force them to join the Indian National Army. He presented a total of 25 witnesses before the court.

When these witnesses were cross examined by the defence counsel the majority of them clearly and frankly admitted that they told the court what they had been tutored. The prosecution counsel, with all the state machinery at his disposal failed to prove that the accused had in any way committed any torture or atrocity. The accused, however, were found guilty of waging war against the King.

Under these circumstances it is highly inappropriate to accuse those men of the charge that could not be substantiated in the court of law.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. BAINS,
34 Shere Road,
Gants Hill,
Essex.
January 14.

Fresh avenues

From Mr Richard Rogers

Sir, I fail to follow the logic of Ga[illegible] Stamp's piece in The Times dated December 31 ("A new avenue for the architects") in which he states a case for retaining the 1947 Planning Act on the basis that legislation has allowed to be built some near acceptable new buildings along Shaftesbury Avenue.

What Mr Stamp has failed to point out is that it is this same legislation that has led to the architectural disasters in cities such as Liverpool, Glasgow and London where Euston Road, Oxford Street and the Albert Embankment, across from the Houses of Parliament, are but a few examples.

The cost and time involved in responding to these exceptionally stringent laws, especially those covering aesthetics, have not even produced better environmental planning when compared with countries where planning laws are related primarily to zoning and not to aesthetics.

The present system takes away the direct responsibility for the environment from the public and the architect. Furthermore it encourages the client to seek an architect whose strength is political rather than creative, resulting in the loss of design quality, the very principle the legislation was set up to prevent.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ROGERS,
Richard Rogers & Partners Ltd.,
49 Princes Place,
Holland Park, W11.
January 13.

Times standing still

From Mr D.R.W. Potter

Sir, I notice from your paper this morning that nobody was born, became engaged, married or died. Is this a record, or something to do with 1984?

Yours faithfully
DAVID R.W. POTTER,
16 William Mews,
Lowndes Square, SW1.
January 18.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 25: The Prince of Wales, today continued passage on HMS Glasgow.

June 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, and Grand President of the St John Ambulance Association and Brigade, this afternoon visited the Headquarters of the Order of St John, Grosvenor Crescent.

Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Nottingham on March 2.

Princess Anne, Chancellor of London University, will attend a dinner of University College Women's Dining Club at University College on March 2.

Princess Anne will visit the Red Cross camp for disabled people at Pontins Holiday Camp, Weymouth, Dorset, on March 6 and also the new Royal British Legion Headquarters at Dorchester.

The Queen will give a reception on March 7 at Buckingham Palace to mark the 125th anniversary of the Corps of Commissionaires.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the annual stallion show of the National Light Horse Breeding Society at Newmarket on March 8.

Princess Anne, Patron of Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend a luncheon to meet members of the council of the Saddlers' Company and to receive the eighth jubilee saddle at Saddlers' Hall on March 8.

Princess Anne, Patron of the British School of Osteopathy, will visit the school in Suffolk Street on March 8.

A memorial service for Mr Digby Morton will be held in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, at 11.30 today.

A memorial service for Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Cave will be held at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall at noon today.

A memorial service for Judge Rodney Bax, QC, will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel at 5pm today.

Birthdays today

Mr Ronald Allison, 52; the Marquess of Bath, 79; Mr Michael Bentine, 62; Miss Marti Caine, 39; Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi, 59; Sir Roger Chance, 91; Mr Henry Cotton, 77; Mr William Dring, 80; Dr Jacqueline du Pré, 39; Mr C. J. Hampton, 38; Sir George Middleton, 79; Mr Paul Newman, 59; Mr C. H. Tidbury, 58; Sir Ronald Walker, 77; Miss Kaye Webb, 70.

Luncheon

Royal College of Surgeons of England
Professor Geoffrey Slaney, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, yesterday entertained at luncheon at the college Lord Smith, Sir Leonard Wolfson and Sir Gordon Robson.

Memorial service

Professor F. D. Richardson
A memorial service for Professor Frederick Denys Richardson was held at the Church of Holy Trinity and All Saints, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, London, yesterday. The Rev Dr Martin Israel officiated. Mr Hugh Richardson and Mr Rodney Richardson, sons, read the lessons and Professor James Jeffes gave an address. Among those present were:

Mrs Richardson (widow), Mrs Hugh Richardson (daughter-in-law), [illegible] R Goodwin, Dr and Mrs J W Richardson, Mr N Homes, Mrs G Good

Lady Flowers (representing the Rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology), the Hon Mrs Judith Lyttelton, Sir James Henry, Lady Goodeve, Sir Monty Finniston, Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Ford (Metals Society), Sir Hugh and Lady Ford, [illegible] Headlam-Morley, Mr and Mrs R I Gerrard, Professor P L Pratt, Mr and Mrs Paul Fifoot, Mr John Taylor, Professor E H Brown, Mr and Mrs H A Freeth, Mr and Mrs R G Armstrong and Professor and Mrs P Grieveson.

Dinners

Speaker
The Speaker held a dinner for Croydon Business Venture in Speaker's House yesterday. Those present were:
[illegible]

United & Cecil Club
Mr Sydney Chapman, MP, presided at a dinner given by the United & Cecil Club at the House of Commons yesterday. The guest of honour and speaker was Mr Patrick Jenkin, MP.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, and Mr Terry Waite, his assistant for Anglican communion affairs, admiring the cope and mitre yesterday which Dr Runcie is to present to the new Archbishop of Uganda, the Most Rev Yona Okoth. Dr Runcie arrives in Kampala today for Bishop Okoth's enthronement (Photograph: Tony Lewis).

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr **Adrian Ham**, Commercial Director of British Alcan Commercial Extrusions to be corporate planner of The British Waterways Board.

Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, to be chairman of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders employment advisory committee in succession to Lord Carr of Hadley.

Mr David Graham, aged 50, Deputy Chief Constable of Cheshire, to be Chief Constable of the county in succession to Mr George Fenn, who retires on January 31.

Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy to be President of the Air League from March 1 in succession to Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Smallwood.

Sale room

Bargain $35,200 paid for order signed by Charles II

By Huon Mallalieu

A sale of items by Phillips of American interest in New York on Tuesday included documents, furniture, silver and paintings, making a total of $563,197 (£402,283), with 24 per cent failing to find buyers.

Mr Malcolm Forbes, the magazine proprietor and collector, would seem to have had something of a bargain in securing the most important document on offer at $35,200 (£25,142). It was Charles II's signed order for the acceptance of the surrender of New York by the Dutch in 1674 (estimate $40,000 to $50,000).

The British had in fact occupied the settlement eight years previously but had subsequently lost it again. The document sold in New York set the lagal seal on 109 years of British possession.

The most expensive lot also sold well below estimate. A cast of the well-known bronze by Frederick Remington, "The Bronco Buster", dating from 1906, went to a dealer from New York for $47,000 (£33,571) against a pre-sale estimate of from $70,000 to $90,000.

In a sale of railway and other toys held by Phillips in London yesterday a set of Marklin locomotive and coaches, together with a quantity of track, reached £2,700 (estimate £2,500 to £3,500). The total was £32,561 with 8 per cent bought in.

Christie's sale of middle-ranking English and other silver made £160,909 with 9 per cent failing to sell.

In recent seasons there has been something of a boom in silver dining plates, which are apparently being used again at private parties. An elegant set of six by Paul Storr, dated 1811, was sold yesterday for £4,644

Takeover will aid disabled gardeners

By Alan Toogood
Horticulture Correspondent

Horticultural Therapy, the organization which promotes gardening therapy for disabled people, has taken over the Disabled Living Foundation's garden research and advisory services.

The type of work being done for handicapped gardeners includes research on helping those confined to wheelchairs, who may find that growing plants in greenhouses is well within their capabilities. Out of doors, disabled people can grow vegetables, fruits and flowers in raised beds.

Recently much research has gone into modifying tools and equipment for disabled gardeners. Many lightweight hand tools for cultivating and pruning are now available.

Even digging is possible for many people with back trouble, as spades and forks have been modified to prevent bending the back while digging.

Blind people often obtain great pleasure from growing plants with scented leaves and flowers. Horticultural Therapy also helps mentally handicapped people with gardening.

Horticultural Therapy feels that many more of the 3.9 per cent of the population registered as handicapped would benefit from taking up gardening.

Since 1964 the foundation has been making information available to disabled gardeners. Its publications include: *Easy Path to Gardening* (in conjunction with the Reader's Digest) and *The Garden and the Handicapped Child*.

It has also developed an inquiry service and has helped to set up demonstration gardens at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden at Wisley, Surrey, the garden centres at Syon Park and Battersea Park, and the Wolfson Centre, Wimbledon.

Horticulture Therapy, of Goulds Grounds, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerset, BA11 3DW, was formed in 1978.

It runs an advisory service and management courses, prepares feasibility studies and mounts overseas projects.



Courage in the air: Squadron Leader David Cale, whose skill and courage saved the lives of 80 passengers, has been awarded the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air. In September, 1982, as a flight lieutenant on an exchange posting with the United States Air Force, he was piloting a transport plane in Germany when there was a serious engine failure immediately after take-off. His "calm decisiveness" was said to have contributed to the aircraft's successful emergency landing.

Science report

US scientists decry missile testing

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The Federation of American Scientists, which includes 47 Nobel prize winners, has described the testing of the first American missile intended to destroy orbiting satellites as "tragically ill-timed".

The missile tests coincided with the publication of a technical review by the Federation of Anti-Satellites Weapons (ASAT).

A preface to the 25,000-word monograph compares the circumstances to those 12 years ago with the failure to limit Multiple Independently Targeted Vehicles (MIRVs). That is said to be recognized now as a big mistake, and a failure to limit ASATs may come to be seen in the same light.

Two steps are proposed:

● The US Government should seek an immediate mutual moratorium on the testing of anti-satellite weapons against objects in space. In particular, a test moratorium would limit development of the homing guidance sensors of the weapons, the most critical and least developed element of ASAT technology.

● There should be an immediate resumption of the negotiations that began in 1978 for limiting those weapons. The basis should be a draft treaty limiting ASATs which the Soviet Union submitted and to which the United States has yet to respond.

The new American device tested at the weekend, known as the Prototype Miniature Air Launched System (PMALS), is described as a significant improvement over existing Soviet ASAT consisting of a large satellite weighing several tons that is launched by a modified version of the Soviet Union's largest inter-continental missile. The Soviet interceptor satellite manoevres to within striking range of its target. At a few kilometres distance a small explosive charge is detonated, showering the target satellite with shrapnel.

Similar systems were tested by the United States until the idea of an air-launched weapon was conceived, culminating in the present design of a small rocket launched from an F-15 fighter. The rocket is a two-stage device 18ft long, 18in in diameter and weighing 1200 kilograms. The warhead contains a nimiature heat-seeking homing sensor.

The maximum altitude at which a target satellite can be reached is 500 kilometres.

The second potential anti-satellite weapon which is worrying the Russians is the Space Shuttle, which could move close to a satellite and sweep it up with its own robot arm. However, that means running the risk of picking up an object in which there is a self-destruct charge placed to prevent recovery.

According to the federations' review, work is continuing in the United States with ground-launched versions of the new miniature, heat-seeking warhead. In addition, the United States has an extensive programme of research on "directed energy" weapons, especially lasers. The largest of them, the Triad laser, is based on a two megawatt (two million watts) infra-red chemical laser.

The satellites which could be attacked if the existing methods of the two superpowers were developed are described in the accompanying tables.

Soviet satellites vulnerable to American ASATs		
1983		
Photo Recce	Radar Recce	Early warning
18	18	45
1989		
20	20	12

United States satellites vulnerable to Soviet ASATs		
1983		
28	72	12
1989		
14	70	12

Australia honours Murdoch

Mr Rupert Murdoch, head of News Ltd, Australia, has been awarded the highest civil honour in Australia.

In the Australia Day honours list published today, in Canberra, Mr Murdoch is made a Companion of the Order of Australia. He is among three to receive a companionship.

The citation says the award was for service to the media, particularly the newspaper publishing industry.

Mr Murdoch is chairman of News International, whose newspapers include *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

The Australian yachting team who regained the America's Cup last year also received awards.

Mr Alan Bond, the syndicate chairman, becomes an officer of the Order of Australia, while the helmsman, John Bertrand, and crew members gained lesser honours.

Church news

Retirements and resignations

The Rev W H Savage, Curate of St Sidwell and St Matthew, Exeter, diocese of Exeter, to retire on July 31.

Preb R H M Treen, Vicar of Bishops Hull, Taunton, and Rural Dean of Taunton, diocese of Bath and Wells, to resign as Rural Dean on March 31, and to resign the benefice of Bishops Hull on April 9.

Latest wills

Mrs Millie Little, of Sunbury-on-Thames, left estate valued at £154,779 net. After personnel bequests totalling £18,000 she left the residue to the British Organization for Rehabilitation by Training.

Mary Frances Pamela Butler Flitcroft, of Birkdale, Merseyside, who died intestate, left £596,454 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Brettell, Mr Harry Hodgson, of Farnham, Surrey £238,695
Lomas, Mr Arthur Edward, of Colwyn Bay £275,020
Middleton, Mrs Gladys Mary, of Bath £306,136
Webber, Mr Alfred Disraeli, of Didsbury £339,419
Wyatt-Smith, Mr Rupert Basil, of Farnham, Surrey £230,543

Covent Garden site for jazz centre

Britain's long-awaited National Jazz Centre is due to open in London's Covent Garden this summer. The £1.2m venture, backed by the Arts Council, the Greater London Arts Association and numerous individuals, will be housed in a converted fruit and vegetable warehouse in Floral Street.

The centre is being run as a charity. It is hoped that it will be self-supporting when it opens. It will have a 400-seat auditorium and a second stage in its restaurant.

OBITUARY

THE VERY REV THOMAS MURCHISON

Churchman and Gaelic scholar

The Very Rev Thomas Murchison, who has died in Glasgow at the age of 76, was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1969, and one of Scotland's most respected Gaelic scholars.

He contributed material to numerous publications, editing the monthly magazine of *An Comunn Gaidhealach* and a new edition of the Gaelic Bible for the National Bible Society of Scotland. He was regarded as Scotland's most prolific Gaelic writer of poetry and prose.

Murchison was born in Govan but grew up on Skye where he was educated at Kylerhea and Portree. He was at Glasgow University between 1926 and 1929 and then the Faculty of Divinity at the University until 1932. In 1964 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of Divinity by Glasgow University.

He began his ministry as a student missionary in Dervaig on Mull and in 1932 was appointed to his first charge at Glenelg Inverness-shire. In 1937 he became minister of St Columba Copland Road which in 1966 was united with a neighbouring congregation and became St Columbia Summertown. Here he was minister until his retirement in 1972.

A former convener of the Advisory Board and of the Home Board he served as Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow between 1965 and 1966 and was a founder, and for many years the secretary, of the *Scottish Journal of Theology*.

In 1958 Murchison was crowned bard of the National Mod in Glasgow and three years later became chief of the Gaelic Society of Inverness. He was honorary president of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society and International President of the Celtic Congress.

He was a member of the National Broadcasting Council for Scotland of the BBC (1952-57), chairman of the Scottish religious advisory committee of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and Scottish member of its Religious Advisers' Panel. He founded the Highland Development League and was a vice president of *An Comunn Gaidhealach*.

His many publications included *The Plight of the Smallholders*, *The Golden Key: Gaelic sermons of the Rev Malcolm Macleod* and *The Gaelic Prose Writing of Donald Lamont*.

He was an authority on crofting and small communities, was a regular broadcaster, and from 1951 to 1979, was editor of the Gaelic Supplement to *Life and Works*.

Murchison will be remembered for his contribution to the spiritual and social life of Scotland and for his scholarship and promotion of Gaelic language and culture.

DR ROBERT LUCAS

Dr Robert Lucas, MBE, died in London on January 19 at the age of 79. During the war he had been one of the most distinguished members of the BBC German Service.

Lucas's introduction to broadcasting was a dramatic one. When on September 27, 1938, Just before the Munich Conference was arranged, the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, decided to address the nation on the danger of war, the BBC was asked with only two hours notice to put out translations in various languages including German.

Lucas was pulled in to do the German version. He was put in a room without a typewriter. He had no advance copy and the speech was brought to him in short takes straight from the ticker. Then it was hurried, in his difficult Central European handwriting, to the studio where it was read with many delays and stumblings by Walter Goetz, the *Daily Express* cartoonist, who had also been brought in at the last moment.

Born with the surname Ehrenzweig in Vienna, Lucas read philosophy and chemistry there, and he worked in Berlin in the late 1920s as an industrial chemist. He began to contribute to various newspapers and decided that the right profession for him was journalism. In 1934 he came to London as correspondent of the leading Vienna newspaper the *Neue Frei Presse* and remained in this post until Hitler's invasion of Austria.

In the BBC German Service he was one of the most talented of a very distinguished group of German and Austrian exiles who worked as a team with their British colleagues. He will be remembered best of all for writing the letters of Lance-Corporal Hirnschal to his dearest wife Amalia in which the experiences of German soldiers at the front were satiized. Hirnschal has been compared, not to his disadvantage, with the Good Soldier Schweik.

In spite of intense jamming, the programme became immensely popular in Germany and one of its regular listeners was Dr Adenauer. A selection of the letters was published in 1946 in Switzerland and, more recently, in Germany, where it has been a best seller.

Lucas's best known work after the war was his *Frieda Lawrence – the Story of Frieda van Richthofen and D. H. Lawrence* which was also published in the United States and translated into many languages.

He was appointed MBE in 1966 and a few years ago the Golden Order of Merit for services to the Federal Republic of Austria.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Mr Andrew Hamilton Pike, CMG, OBE, who died on January 13 at the age of 80, was Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources in Tanganyika, as it then was, from 1957 to 1959.

Mr F. J. Spence, who died on January 24 at the age of 90, was president of the Wasps Rugby Football Club from 1963 to 1965.

JACKIE WILSON

Jackie Wilson, the American singer of rhythm and blues whose recordings were popular in the late 1950s, died in New Jersey, on January 21. He was 49.

Wilson was an important link in the tradition of black popular music derived from church singing. Influenced by the gospel quartets as well as by such secular singers as Roy Brown and Clyde McPhatter, he in turn left an imprint upon the styles of the next generation's stars.

Wilson's early interest in boxing brought him a Golden Gloves title at the age of 16. His singing ability was first noticed by Johnny Otis; later he became the lead singer with Billy Ward and his Dominoes, subsequently filling the gap in the group left by the departure of McPhatter.

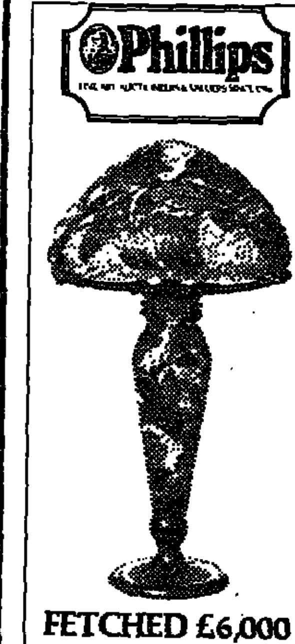
"Reet Petite", his first solo release, was followed a year later by "Lonely Teardrops", which sold a million copies.

But he was often ill served by his producers and arrangers, who viewed him as a black Mario Lanza rather than an original product of Afro-American traditions; thus he found himself recording such incongruous material as "Danny Boy" and other over-orchestrated ballads.

Seriously wounded during a shooting incident in a New York hotel in 1961, he recovered to find his style being overtaken by the vanguard of soul music, and his later recordings betray a deep uncertainty. Only the sympathetic producers Carl Davis (with "Higher and Higher") and Eugene Record (with "You Got Me Walking") found the formula which remodelled Wilson's talent with dignity.

A thoughtful anthology, *The Jackie Wilson Story*, has recently rectified the long-standing omission of his work from the record catalogues.

Mr Edward J. Daly, who died on January 21 in Orinda, California, at the age of 61, was chairman of World Airways and as such became internationally known when, at the end of the Vietnam war, he was active in ferrying refugees out of that country.



Law Report January 26 1984 Queen's Bench Division

Rescinding revoked legal aid certificate

Langford v Gibb
Before Mr Esyr Lewis, QC
[Judgment delivered January 20]

A legal aid general committee had power to rescind a decision to revoke a legal aid certificate where that decision had been based upon a mistake of fact, and the effect of rescinding such a revocation would be that the beneficiary of the certificate would be an assisted person under the Legal Aid Act 1974 continuously from the date of the issue of the certificate. Moreover, the imposition on a grant of legal aid of a condition which was incapable of fulfilment did not render the grant void.

Mr Esyr Lewis, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held giving reasons for a decision on January 17 when he had awarded the plaintiff, Mr Graham George Langford, £2,400 costs against the defendant, Mr James Christopher Gibb, in an action in which judgment had been given in July 1983, although he had found that the defendant was an assisted person for the purposes of the 1974 Act.

Mr Nicholas Davidson for the plaintiff; Mr Quintin Iwi for the defendant; Mr Duncan Matheson for the Law Society.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the defendant had been granted an emergency legal aid certificate on February 2, 1982, but that that certificate had subsequently been revoked under regulation 76 of the Legal Aid General Regulations (SI 1980 No 1894) when an assessment officer had decided that his disposable capital exceeded the limit imposed under section 6 of the 1974 Act.

On a re-assessment, however, the defendant's disposable capital had been found to be within the limit and so in December 1982 the general committee for the London West Legal Aid Area had purported to rescind the revocation and thereby to reinstate the defendant's legal aid for the whole of the period from February 2.

The emergency certificate had been replaced in January 1983 by a substantive certificate which stated that the legal aid ran continuously from February 2, 1982, but expressed it to be conditional upon the papers and counsel's opinion being submitted to the committee for consideration as to whether the certificate should be amended or discharged before the action was set down for hearing. The action had in fact already been set down when that certificate was issued.

In February and April 1983 respectively, an emergency and a substantive legal aid certificate had been issued in respect of a second action which the plaintiff had brought against the defendant. They had been subject to the same condition as the January certificate, and that action too had already been set down at the dates of issue.

The actions had been consolidated and heard in July 1983 and judgment given for the plaintiff.

The plaintiff had then applied for costs against the defendant, contending that the defendant was not an assisted person under the 1974 Act, or alternatively, if he was, for a determination under section 8(1) (e) of that Act of the costs which it was reasonable for the defendant to be ordered to pay.

Counsel for the plaintiff had argued that a general committee had no power to rescind a decision to revoke an emergency certificate, irrespective of the basis upon which the decision to revoke had been made.

Such a result would be severely prejudicial to a defendant. The effect of revocation was to deprive the beneficiary of all the protection which the certificate had given: it was as if he had never been legally aided at all, and he became personally liable for all costs which had been incurred since the issue of the certificate.

If a certificate rovoked pursuant to a mistake of fact could not be revived when the mistake became apparent, great hardship could be caused to assisted persons. In the absence of any express provision, it was impossible to conclude that it had been intended that such a mistake could not be rectified.

The general principles of justice and fairness required that a general committee should have power to rescind a revocation in such circumstances, and his Lordship was fortified in that conclusion by regulation 82 of the 1980 Regulations which gave an assisted person rights to be heard and to appeal against a revocation unless it was made under regulation 76.

Moreover the decision in *R & T Thew Ltd v Reeves* ([1982] QB 172), to the effect that a general committee had no power to antedate a grant of legal aid did not bear on this point.

Accordingly, the defendant had been an assisted person from February 2, 1982, until the emergency certificate had been superseded by the substantive certificate.

It was unnecessary to decide whether, as the defendant had argued, the declaration on the substantive certificate that the legal aid had run continuously from February 2, 1982 was conclusive. However, his Lordship thought that that argument was not well-founded as a legal aid certificate could only speak with authority from the date of its own issue, and it was necessary to look at the past history to determine when the defendant had become an assisted person.

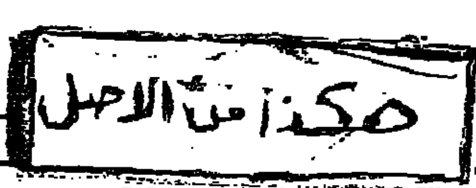
His Lordship could not accept the plaintiff's second argument that the imposing of a condittion which could not be fulfilled rendered the 1983 certificates null and void. The extent and scope of the legal aid granted was set out on each certificate, and the condition took nothing away from the description of the legal aid in the certificate.

Accordingly, he was an assisted person to the extent described despite the impossible condition.

It followed that the defendant had been an assisted person under the 1974 Act from February 2, 1982 onwards, and that he could not be ordered to pay the plaintiff's costs except to the extent that was reasonable having regard to all the circumstances, including the means of both parties and their conduct in connexion with the action.

Having considered all the circumstances, his Lordship thought it reasonable to order him to pay £2,400 towards the plaintiff's costs at the rate of £100 a month commencing in September 1984.

Solicitors: Budd Martin Burrett, Chelmsford; David Horner & Webb, Southend-on-Sea; Mr David Edwards.



THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Euston property coup for British Land

Mr John Ritblat, the chairman of British Land, yesterday appeared like a dog with two tails: as well he might after months of negotiation with George Wimpey to buy its half share in Euston Centre Properties. For £39.9m, British Land acquired no fewer than 12 acres of London, an impressive, prospective rent roll of £10m, a 15p per share increase in net asset value, and some useful franked income to set against Advance Corporation Tax. And the price paid is an astonishing 40 per cent discount on the property's underlying value.

British Land has taken pains to reassure shareholders that the price paid to Wimpey can be met from its own resources: rights issues from property companies are always bad news because they dilute the net asset value of shares and the n.a.v. is the best arbiter of a property company's performance. Some of the cash has been recouped by the sale of 3 per cent of stock conversion shares, which came as part of the deal. About £5m of the price relates to Vogue House, an office building in Hanover Square, London W1. Vogue House and the Euston Centre interest were valued in ECP's last accounts at almost £120m. The Euston Centre's tenants include Thames Television and ICL; Vogue House's include Condé Nast Publications.

Mr Robert Clark, chairman of Stock Conversion, owner of the other half of ECP, must wonder how the clever Mr Ritblat has done it. In fact the deal raises rather more questions than it answers for George Wimpey. Since that company was set up by a certain Godfrey Mitchell, later knighted, in 1919, it has not been noted for its willingness to explain its actions. Yesterday it was characteristically reluctant to offer reasons for selling beyond "happiness" with the outcome. What is clear is that Wimpey has £60m worth of property to dispose of.

The company has been changing its profile since Sir Godfrey Mitchell bowed out in 1979 and though £31.5m, or even £60m, is not huge by Wimpey's standards, the cash would be useful to help strengthen its drive in the private housing market. Wimpey is not comfortable with Sir Lawrie Barratt's Barratt Developments in pole position. There are also some signs that Wimpey has its eye on aggregate acquisitions: aggregates are a limited resource and rivals like Tarmac and Amey Roadstone have been busy buying. Wimpey can hardly afford to be left standing.

Of immediate interest is the fate of the Grove Charity Management's 49.9 per cent stake in Wimpey. Rumour says that it is for sale: there are plenty of precedents for family trusts deciding it is too dangerous to leave all their eggs in one basket. But whoever controls Grove controls Wimpey.

Unitary tax raises more hackles

After a lull induced by President Reagan's delaying tactic of appointing a high commission, it looks as though the campaign against unitary taxation is gathering momentum. Mr Michael Grylls, Conservative MP for Surrey North West, will be seeing Mr John Moore, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, on February 13 to seek a provision in the Finance Bill allowing the Government to abolish advanced corporation tax relief on American companies in Britain.

In any event, the threat to abolish ACT relief will be taken seriously by American companies who in the last three years have been saved £531m.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, yesterday tried to mollify European opinion by saying that his commission would come up with a solution soon.

The Fund under critical fire

The International Monetary Fund is in a no win situation. The financial assistance it provides for member countries in distress is apt to be condemned as largesse for the undeserving while the economic and financial disciplines it seeks to impose may also be condemned as brutal instances of grinding the faces of the deserving. Much of the "research" into the IMF's record, behaviour and attitudes, is too biased for words and therefore more words need not be wasted in reporting it.

That however, is not the case with a major new study* of the Fund's policies toward developing countries by a team under Mr Tony Killick, Director of the Overseas Development Institute. Mr Killick does not make sufficient allowances for the real world – and the shortage of available resources to hand out – in which the Fund has to operate, but his team's criticisms do merit serious consideration and some of his team's recommendations ought to be taken to heart by the Fund's masters who have the power to alter its ways.

The central criticism is that pressure from the Reagan Administration and hardline European governments after 1981 compelled the Fund to tighten the conditions it imposes on borrowing countries. Since then deficit countries have more frequently been pressed to devalue their currencies and asked for deeper commitments to change domestic economic policies.

In essence, the Fund is accused of tackling contemporary balance of payments problems with the same approach as it adopted in the 1960s. This, despite the fact that the problems facing deficit countries have changed fundamentally since that time, and in the face of evidence that the Fund's prescriptions are not working effectively.

The Killick remedy is a new "real economy" approach for countries with deep seated payments problems. He and his colleagues argue strongly for changes in the "conditionality" laid down by the Fund before granting credits to deficit countries. They call on the Fund to initiate regular action to mobilize new funds from multilateral, bilateral and commercial sources.

Mr Killick observed yesterday that "reductions to trade and payments restrictions are not best described as 'adjustment.'" More usefully, "the World Bank has distinguished between adjustment based upon slower growth, which narrows deficits by reducing imports, and adjustments based on changes in the structure of output and demand in favour of the production of exports and import substitutes."

This is a distinction that the IMF might also adopt when drawing up programmes for the errant and the overdrawn.

The Quest for Economic Stabilization (£16.50) and *The IMF and Stabilization* (£15) published by the Heinemann Educational.

Record exports lift current surplus to £2 billion

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Britain ran a current account surplus on the balance of payments of more than £2 billion last year, four times the level predicted by the Treasury last November, and there are signs that the trade account may be improving after a sharp deterioration in the first half of last year.

Exports have risen rapidly since last autumn to record levels, boosted by the revival in world trade. They pushed the visible trade balance into surplus in the final quarter after big deficits earlier in the year.

If the trend continues another substantial current account surplus looks likely this year, in sharp contrast to the Government's forecast of a zero balance.

Last month £495m surplus on trade in goods, announced yesterday by the Trade and Industry Department, was the biggest for a year. A jump in exports to a record total of £5.9 billion included a 9.5 per cent rise in deliveries of finished manufactures, as well as higher oil exports.

The inclusion of an estimated £210m surplus on invisible trade-services such as insurance and shipping – brought the current account surplus to £705m, more than twice the £317m recorded the month before.

Britain's trade performance remains heavily dependent on oil. The oil surplus increased from £4.6 billion in 1982 to £6.9 billion last year while the deficit on non-oil trade widened from £2.5 billion to £7.9 billion.

About £5 billion of this non-oil deficit is attributable to trade in manufactures, the first time Britain has been a net importer of manufactured goods since the Industrial Revolution 200 years ago.

Sir Terence Burns, the Government's chief economic adviser, said last week that he saw no prospect of eliminating the manufactured trade deficit as long as Britain had a surplus on oil.

UK TRADE £m, seasonally adjusted		Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
1982		5378	2119	3259
1983		2016	−954	2970
1983	Q1	781	−163	944
	Q2	−171	−669	498
	Q3	603	−295	898
	Q4	803	173	630
	Oct	−219	−429	210(p)
	Nov	317	107	210(p)
	Dec	705	495	210(p)

(p) projections subject to revision
Source: Department of Trade and Industry

Even the oil surplus, however, was not enough to keep visible trade from a £1 billion deficit last year, compared with a surplus of £2.1 billion the year before.

Total exports rose by 1.5 per cent in volume terms in last year but when oil and erratic items such as ships and aircraft are excluded they fell by 1 per cent. On the same basis imports were 9 per cent up from 1982.

But the latest figures are more encouraging. Non-oil exports rose 8 per cent in the final quarter last year, including a jump of 39 per cent in car exports, compared with a 6 per cent increase in imports.

The better export performance mainly reflects a pickup in the economies of Western Europe, with which Britain does more than half its trade, and the continuing boom in the United States.

Nevertheless the government will be disappointed that Britain's recovery has spurred imports rather than domestic production.

While manufacturing output has remained sluggish imports of consumer goods rose by 10.5 per cent and imports of capital goods by 16.4 per cent last year, reaching record levels at the year-end.

Market tops 840

The stock market staged its best one-day performance in more than 14 months yesterday, helped by a bumper set of December trade figures and another firm opening on Wall Street.

The *FT* index leapt 15.6 to a record high of 840.5 as institutional investors chased share prices steadily higher. Datastream calculated that by the close of business last night, £257 billion had been added to share values.

We apologize for the absence of Stock Exchange, Wall Street and unit trust prices because of a strike by members of the union Sogat 82.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 840.5 up 15.6
FT Gilts: 82.87 down 0.04
FT All Share: 504.18 up 7.52
Bargains: 27,013
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 104.21 up 0.74
New York: Dow Jones Average: (latest) 1248 up 5.5
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,115.10 down 92.18
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,041.63
Amsterdam: 179.6 up 3.8
Sydney: AO Index 766.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1075.5 up 9.9
Brussels: General Index 147.66 up 1.96
Paris: CAC Index 175.1 down 0.3
Zurich: SKA General 317.10 up 0.3

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling
$1.4025 up 0.0015
Index 81.8 up 0.2
DM 3.96 up 0.0050
FrF 12.09 up 0.0100
Yen 328.50 unchanged

Dollar
Index 131.8 down 0.2
DM 2.8210 up 0.0015

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1.4040
Dollar DM 2.8160

INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.570774
SDR £0.737700

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am $363.375 pm $366.50
close $366.25-$367 (£261.[illegible]-£261.75)
New York (close): $366.50
Krugerrand* (per coin): $377.50-$379 (£2[illegible]-£270.25)
Sovereigns* (new): $86-87 (£61.25-£62)
*Excludes VAT

Battle expected after £35m Stylo bid

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Phil Harris, Chairman of Harris Queensway, yesterday fired the first formal shots in what is set to be one of the City's most acrimonious takeover battles, when his company said it was offering 325p per share for Stylo, the Bradford shoe business.

The bid comes after last week's announcement by Harris Queensway that it had been rebuffed by the controlling Ziff family after talks about acquiring Stylo.

Yesterday's offer values the shoe business at £35.6m, the price mentioned in the talks, but also offers a premium of 450p each for the unlisted management shares.

The management shares carry 16 votes to every one of the ordinary shares. Mr Harris hopes that the higher offer will be enough to encourage some family members to defect. Without the support of at least one family member it is virtually impossible for Mr Harris to win control.

Both sides yesterday accused the other of stonewalling. Stylo's merchant bank advisers, Lloyds Bank International, said that an invitation made on Friday to put the offer in writing and then talk was never answered.

However, Mr Harris said that he had offered to talk yesterday morning, half an hour before the bid was announced, but received no response. He added that on another occasion he had been kept waiting on the telephone only to be told that Mr Arnold Ziff, the Stylo chairman, "was too busy to talk to me."

Mr Harris said he had the support of the holders of more than 30 per cent of the ordinary shares, with letters to prove it. This would give the company control of more than 35 per cent of the shares, including Mr Harris's own holding. Mr Harris said: "In three weeks we have acceptances for 70 or 80 per cent of the ordinary shares."

Stylo is still to make a formal response – Mr Ziff was on his way to London yesterday to meet his advisers – but a Lloyds spokesman said: "There has been no change of mind, the offer is far too low. If Stylo was to go, which I do not accept for a moment, there are at least half a dozen who would pay more."

However, Mr Harris is prepared to drop the condition that the board should give irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer.

Helicopter deal signed with Italy

From John Earle
Rome

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, and Signor Renato Altissimo, Italian Minister of Industry, yesterday signed an agreement for both governments to provide aid to launch the civilian version of the £1 billion EH101 helicopter project.

The British Government will advance £60m to Westland, repayable through a levy on sales. The Italian government will provide up to 75 per cent for Agusta's 127 billion lire (£53m) launch costs.

Under the project, a 50-50 venture between Westland and Agusta, a potential market is foreseen of 2,000 helicopters. About 900 of these will be for the civilian version and the rest divided between the British and Italian navies. A prototype is due to fly by the end of 1986 and regular production to begin in 1989.

Mr Lamont said: "It is a huge project for the U.K. and will help us to secure 10,000 jobs in the aerospace industry at the peak of the programme". Some of these jobs will be in Westland's plant at Yeovil, Somerset, and the others with subcontractors elsewhere.

The EH101 is a medium-heavy three-engined helicopter, with a cruising speed of 160 knots

Sir Terence Beckett: CBI director-general

CBI urges cost-cutting in Budget

By Our Economics Correspondent

Measures to lower business costs and improve competitiveness must take priority over income tax cuts in the Budget, the Confederation of British Industry urges in its recommendations to Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, published yesterday.

It gives a warning that without action on costs and competitiveness economic recovery could start to fizzle out this year, with growth of only 1.5 to 2 per cent compared with 3 per cent in 1983. Given our "weak competitive position", cuts in income tax – beyond raising thresholds to extra compensate for rising prices – would simply suck in imports, it argues.

The employers' organization wants the Chancellor to pursue a "medium-term business strategy" designed to sustain growth at 3 per cent a year. Provided government spending was held in check, this would enable the Chancellor to cut taxes by £2 billion a year in each of his next four budgets and still reduce public borrowing as a proportion of national output, its economists calculate.

The CBI's 1984 Budget package, which would add £1.8 billion to public borrowing in 1984-85 and £2.5 billion in a full year, has three main components:

● A £1.6 billion reduction in business costs through immediate abolition of the employers' national insurance surcharge, the so-called "tax on jobs", and a 10 per cent cut in business rates, now £6 billion a year. The CBI wants this to be followed next year by a reduction in employers' national insurance contributions.

● Measures to boost enterprise and investment "by making share ownership as popular as home-ownership" and reducing taxes on investment income. They include abolition of the investment income surcharge and stamp duty on share deals.

● Higher public investment in essential infrastructure like roads and sewers financed from cuts in government current spending.

Bell bid likely to fail

By Jeremy Warner

Institutional shareholders of Gleneagles Hotels are adopting a "wait and see" approach to the unwanted £21m takeover bid from Arthur Bell & Sons, which is due to reach its first closing date today.

Most of the unquoted Scottish hotel group's 17 shareholders indicated yesterday that they would not be accepting the bid at the present level.

Two of the shareholders with medium-sized stakes, Equity and Law and Scottish Mutual, backed the management's fiercely independent stance and its plans to raise £9.7m with a rights issue to fund the refurbishment of the Piccadilly Hotel.

One of the company's largest shareholders said: "We think there are bound to be further developments whether they be a higher offer from Bells, or another party entering the fray. The Kuwait Investment Office may bid and we think anyway that the management should be given longer to prove itself."

Gleneagles yesterday issued figures for last year, which showed pretax profits comfortably in excess of the forecast of not less than £1m at £1.2m. This compares with the £83,000 the company made in 1982, its first full year outside British Rail.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hunt to pay BP $41m

Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt must pay $40.8m (£29m) to British Petroleum Exploration, a Dallas federal judge has ruled.

US District Judge Joe A. Fish ruled that the Dallas multimillionaire must obey a British court's order to pay the compensation. The order ended an eight-year legal battle between Mr Hunt and the British oil company over a joint venture at a Libyan oil field that was later nationalized by the Libyan government.

● Nissan's president, Mr Takashi Ishihara said his company is studying the feasibility of building cars in the US. But any move depends on the outcome of the company's prolonged discussions on the possibility of building a plant in Britain.

Mr Ishihara said in Osaka that any move to the US would also have to be discussed with the union. Nissan began producing small trucks for the American market at a plant in Smyrna, Tennessee, last June.

● Unit trust sales last year at £2,459m were more than double the 1982 figure of £1,157m which had been a record. The number of people buying unit trusts has also jumped dramatically with unitholder accounts increasing from 1.8 million to 2.04 million.

● The first two-day round of talks on rescheduling Poland's 1984 debt obligations opened in London yesterday. Polish finance officials were said to be pressing representatives of 500 western creditor banks to include next year's debts in the package as well.

● BRITAIN has replaced Saudi Arabia as West Germany's largest oil supplier last year.

Wedd court battle starts

By Wayne Lintott

Within the next week America's biggest investment brokers, Merrill Lynch and the large Wall Street house of Lehman Brothers, Kuhn Loeb will be presenting their evidence of blue chip shares through supporting a £10.7m law suit against Britain's leading stockjobbers, Wedd, Durlacher, Mordaunt.

On January 13, Judge Robert Carter, presiding in the Southern District Court of New York, threw out a move by Wedd to have the suit dismissed.

There now begins an extended legal battle that will take months to settle, and cost millions of dollars to fight.

The action centres on Wedd acting on behalf of a company called C & R Pastor last autumn Pastor sold short on large blocks of blue chip shares through Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers but failed to deliver. The American brokers had to buy in the shares suffering a joint loss of £10.7m.

At the same time Pastor brought in large blocks of shares through Wedd – and paid for them – but those shares never reached Merrill or Lehman. Neither Mr Raphael Pastor, chief executive of C & R Pastor, nor the shares, have been seen since.

Japanese order for Airship

A Japanese consortium plans to buy the first of what could be a number of British-made airships, valued at about £1.5m each, from Airship Industries.

The consortium wants the Skyship 500 model, a Helium gas craft capable of carrying 10 passengers. It will initially be used for advertising, but may be used for passenger and charter services, maritime surveillance and military work, depending on the outcome of tests.

The first model is due to arrive in Japan in pieces next month.

The unnamed Japanese company, plans to buy three airships over the next five years.

WALL STREET

Shares broadly higher

New York (AP-Dow Jones) – Stocks were broadly higher in active early trading yesterday. But prices backed off part way from the early peaks.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up almost 5 points. It was ahead 7½ earlier.

Advancing issues continued to hold nearly a 2-to-1 lead over declines.

Mr Stephen Weisglass, president of Ladenburg Thalmann, said: "The market has been bottoming out for the past couple of days. Now we are going to see some new highs in the near term".

Mr Weisglass found that "a lot of the investor disorientation seems to be over with interest rate worries being overcome and the institutions are moving in heavily".

Before the market opened, the Government reported December durable goods orders dropped 1.1 per cent after a 3.4 per cent increase in November. It was the first decline since July.

But the Commerce Department sais orders for non-defence capital goods, considered a barometer of future plant and equipment spending, rose 1.8 per cent in December after a 6 per cent boost in November.

Investors were waiting for the Treasury to report on the nation's deficit through the first three months of the Fiscal year that began in October.

International Business Machines was 117½ up ¾; American Telephone & Telegraph 66⅛ down ⅛; General Motors 76⅝ up ⅛; Honeywell 123 up ½; Eastman Kodak 73⅛ up ⅛; Ford 43⅞ up ⅛; Exxon 39⅞ up ⅛; and Texas Instruments 138⅝ up 1⅞.

Employees to get only 85% of benefits

Taxman hits BA pension pay-off

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

British Airways' 37,000 employees stand to receive an average tax-free cash sum of £8,000 each if they accept the state-owned airline's pioneering plan to buy out their rights to an index-linked pension.

Details of the new pension proposals were formally given yesterday to the airline's unions and to the 12 trustees of its pension fund. They are regarded as critical to the success of the airline's planned flotation on the stock market next year.

An adverse ruling by the Inland Revenue however means that the cash offer is not quite as tempting as British Airways had originally hoped to make it. Any employee taking the lump sum will receive the equivalent of 85 per cent only of the pension benefits he has accumulated in his career – not the 100 per cent that British Airways thought would be allowed by the taxmen.

Even so, a handful of the airline's employees stand to receive as much as £40,000 from the deal, which some observers feel could act as a precedent for other state industries on the Government's privatization list.

Mr Gordon Dunlop, BA's finance director, said the airline first began reviewing it pension arrangements two years ago. It would have gone ahead with its plans for a new scheme even if it had not been scheduled for privatization.

"We have to operate in a highly competitive international business", he said. "Index linking commits us to what are theoretically unlimited future pension increases and this is a burden that we felt we could not go on supporting."

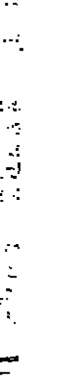
Under the proposals, BA's employees are being given the chance to switch to a new unindexed pension scheme which is being set up in April. If they decide to do so, they can either take a cash sum equivalent to 85 per cent of their accumulated benefits or opt for a higher final pension by commuting their rights in full into additional years of pensionable service.

As an example, BA said a purser, aged 35, with 10 years' service and a salary of £8,200, could choose to take a cash sum of £4,500 or opt for another five years and eight months of pensionable service. A manager, aged 50, with 20 years' service and a salary of £13,700 could take £9,855 in cash or increase his years of service for the purposes of pension calculation by more than six years.


Gordon Dunlop: index-linking 'a burden'

Mr Dunlop said he had no idea how many employees would choose to switch to the new scheme. It would depend on individuals' circumstances. Any new employees BA takes on from now will have no choice but to join the new scheme.

The cost of buying out the index-linked rights could be more than £240m if every member of BA's pension scheme opted to take the cash on offer, but BA does not seem to expect many more than half to take that route.



INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

Surgery sharpens Gestetner

Drastic surgery looks to have put Gestetner Holdings, the office equipment company, on a much sounder footing, though its American interests remain shaky. The decision to sell Japanese-made copiers through Gestetner's own extensive distribution network has been instrumental in turning the 1981-82 pretax loss of £3.1m into a profit of £6.9m.

More links with Japanese manufacturers are due soon. Above the line reorganization costs were just £1.3m, against £4.7m and should be insignificent in the present year.

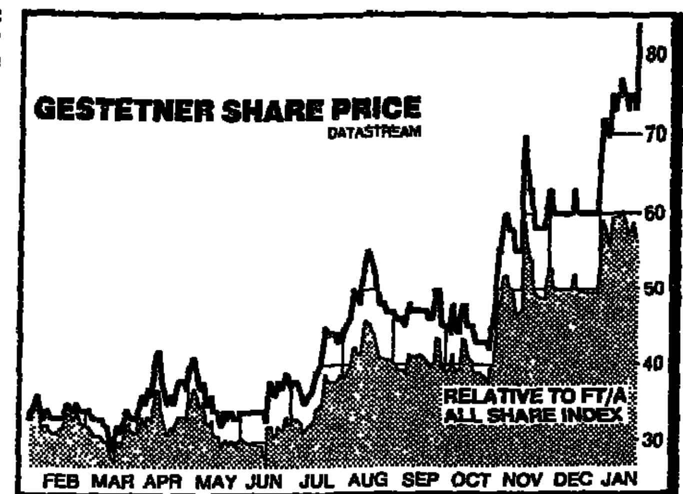
The closure of the loss-making half of the German organization which cost £4.3m is taken below the line. The profitable dealer network there is now free to show waht it can really do.

A big question mark hangs over the US business after it turned in a much-bigger-than-expected loss of £6.9m. In dollar terms the US loss doubled from $5m to $10m and includes some hefty stock write-offs.

This year will not see the same stock losses, but it will need hard work to make the business profitable by the end of this year, which is the target date.

The US suffered from over-optimistic projections by the local management. Gestetner expects the new management, headed by the former chief executive of the Canadian division, to avoid similar errors.

The attributable loss has fallen from £16.9m to £7.4, but a property revaluation has raised a surplus of £11m, to leave a net increase in shareholders' funds. Total borrowings are up by 15m to £75m, but gearing is little changed though the company would prefer to see it lower.



The total dividend for the year is unchanged at 1.32. The shares rose 12p to 84p.

FNFC

Even life after death has its ups and downs. On the surface, last year was a down for First National Finance Corporation, the consumer and property finance group once the vehicle of Mr Pat Matthews, darling of the fringe banking scene, and which has been patiently nursed back from the grave by Mr Stuart Dyer.

Pretax profit for the year to October fell from £15.2m to £11.4m. But the stock market is really only interested in the healthy consumer credit division, which registered a sharp rise from £7.6m to £10.3m. The downturn came mainly from the lending and property division (down from £10.5m to £5.2m.

The consumer finance business is finally free from the stigma of depending on the old bankers' lifeboat for funds. A £160m commercial refinancing last October means the credit business will benefit from relatively lower interest costs this year as well as a £40m expansion of business, worth a conservative £2m together.

The property lending side, still realizing the properties acquired in lieu of customers' loan defaults, remains an irregular profit-earner. It owes the lifeboat about £84m which will be more difficult to refinance.

With shareholders' funds up to £16.6m the group still must salt away another £20m to reconstruct capital and non-distributable reserves before it can pay a dividend.

So the main interest is in FNFC's takeover value. There have been many false rumours, but the most intriguing current plot sees Royal Bank of Scotland selling its share of Lloyds & Scottish to Lloyds using the proceeds to buy FNFC as the basis of a new consumer credit division.

After slipping to 66½p yesterday, (against nominal earnings down from 12.5p to 9.8p), FNFC is valued at about £85m and well worth it in such a deal. But there must already be a lot of disappointed speculators

Union Discount

Union Discount's disclosed orofits may have fallen to £6.11m from £11.4m, but the house's ability to increase inner reserves while transfering £9m from them points to a strong underlying position. In the event, the profit carried forward was some £700,000 higher at £3.65m.

Neverthless, last year was difficult. Despite the decline in minimum lending rate over the year, each fall was too small and too long drawn out for significant profits to be made. The narrowing of spreads, especially during the periods in which the market smelt an impending rate cut, was one of the reasons for Union's total current assets ending the year at £1,747m compared with £2,198m.

Much of the increase in Inner Reserves stemmed from a jump from £18m to £43.5m in the leasing portfolio. The structure of assets also changed as holdings of commercial bills fell by £170m while the contingent liability on bills was £478m higher, reflecting the amount sold to the Bank. The final dividend has been raised by 3p to 20p, bringing the years total to 34p net, where on last night's share price of 763p, up 5p, the yield is comfortably over 6 per cent.

Trusthouse Forte sells last travel business

Trusthouse Forte, Britain's biggest hotel group, yesterday announced the sale of Milbanke Travel, its last travel business, as part of the group's strategy of concentrating on its core hotel and catering activities.

No price was disclosed, although travel industry sources suggest that the deal could net THF at least £200,000.

Last year the group sold Swan Hellenic Cruises to P & O for about £250,000. THF's leisure division, which included the Blackpool Tower and the Empire Ballroom in Leicester Square, London, was also sold for £37.5m to a new company headed by Lord Delfont.

Milbanke owns a chain of retail travel agencies in London and the South-East and has specialized in providing business travel packages.

THF agreed the sale of Milbanke to St. Margaret Investment, a little known investment group, after discussions involving at least two other companies.

Park Food

Park Food Group, the hamper business which came to the USM in July, yesterday reported its expected loss for the half year to end September.

The deficit is £1.4m compared with a £1.06 loss in the same period last year. The chairman, Mr Peter Sherlock, says a record number of hampers were sold in the pre-Christmas period and year's profits should exceed last time's £1.2m.

Park Food's shares were offered at a minimum 85p tender price. Striking level was 95p. Yesterday they lost 1p to 85p.

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Oil shares bubble as BP joins calls for stability

Oil shares bubbled into life yesterday as the heads of several of Britain's largest oil explorers joined together with Opec to call for world price stability.

Sir Peter Walters, chairman of BP, told members of the Energy Business conference in London that oil producing countries and the world economy would benefit from an orderly world market than the present free-for-all. He said: "The prescription for 1984 for Opec countries is world oil price stability. And for BP it's more of the same".

BP, which with Shell, will announce full year profits in March which are expected to be well above analysts' expectations, has now recovered from the psychological setback of dry wells in Alaska and China.

P & O's new prestige liner the Royal Princess costing £100m is due to be launched in Helsinki next month and the ship's builder, Oy Wartila has taken the opportunity to announce its intention of becoming the first Finnish company to be quoted on the London Stock Market. This will be preceded by a proposed rights issue to raise £21.6m. The group, which boasts having built one-third of the world's liners last year, saw profits rise from FMk284m to FMk500m. The shares are already listed in Helsinki and Stockholm.

The group is still exploring in 27 countries and rationalization undertaken by Sir Peter when he became chairman is about to have its effect on profits.

Dr John Jennings, managing director of Shell UK Exploration, also called for between 60 and 90 small oil fields to be developed in the North Sea if Britian is to remain self sufficent in oil until the turn of the century.

Shell's decision to bid $5 billion for its US minority holding fuelled further large gains among the rest of the oil sector. Shell returned from suspension at 638p compared with the suspension price of 623p and ended the day 661p – a rise on the day of 23p. **Royal Dutch** returned at £35.03 against a suspension price of £34 and closed at £35.73. That is a rise of 70p.

Others to gain ground included **BP** 9p up at 435p, **British Borneo** 9p at 300p, **Britoil** 3p at 236p, **Burmah** 12p at 200p, **Careless Capel** 10p at 233p, **Charterhouse Petroleum** 12p at 149p, **Goal Petroleum** 8p at 106p, **Imperial Continental Gas** 17p at 293p, **KCA Drilling** 4p at 32p, **Lasmo** 12p at 343p, **Premier Consolidated** 6½p at 60p, **Tricentrol** 7p at 210p, **Ultramar** 27p at 689p.

On the USM **Sovereign Oil** bounced 32p to 214p on market hopes for its stake in the South Brae field in the North Sea.

A bumper set of December trade figures combined with another firm opening on Wall Street to enable the stock market to resume its record-breaking run.

The equity market had its best one-day rise in more than 14 months as the FT index soared 15.6 to a record 840.5. This added more than 12.57 billion to share values at £171.56 billion according to Datastream. Double figure gains were reported among most blue chips as institutional investors decided to throw caution to the wind and chase share prices sharply higher.

Allied-Lyons rose 5p to 153p, **BICC** 6p to 276p, **BTR** 3p to 434p, **Beecham** 4p to 320p, **Blue Circle** 3p to 441p, **BOC Group** 2p to 299p, **Bowater** 10p to 299p, **Courtaulds** 6p to 141p, **Distillers** 3p to 265p, **GKN** 4p to 207p, **Glaxo** 8p to 795p, **Grand Metropolitan** 22p to 363p, **ICI** 2p to 634p, **Marks & Spencer** 3p to 230p, **Plessey** 8p to 234p, **Tate & Lyle** 5p to 415p, **Thorn EMI** 8p to 659p, **TI Group** 4p to 202p, **Trusthouse Forte** 3p to 215p, following an acquisition, and **Vickers** 9p to 145p.

Imperial Group hardened 8p to 156p ahead of figures next month, but **P&O** stood out among the constituents with a loss of 1p to 259p.

Once again the appearance of US investors after hours only served to turn the screw on the jobbers now anxiously short of stock among those stocks with a transatlantic flavour.

Guilts remained overshadowed, despite the trade figures, with losses of up to 25p reported by dealers at the longer end in thin trade. A £12m Rochdale Metropolitan Council loan, a 1981 "droplock", was placed with institutional shareholders at par. It carries an 11.10 per cent coupon until 2006. Dealings are expected to start on Monday.

The big high street clearing banks also shook off the gloom that surrounded them earlier in the week as investors took a fresh look at the sector in the run up to next month's dividend season.

The **Bank of Scotland** rose 3p to 629p, **Barclays** 5p to 562p, **Lloyds Bank** 20p to 599p, **Midland** 7p to 424p and **National Westminster** 30p to 764p. Only **Royal Bank of Scotland** resisted the trend slipping 1p to 214p, after 216p amid reports that a large line of stock had appeared on the scene.

The discount housed encountered profit taking after the recent bout of speculative support following the mystery approach for **Gerrard & National** which held steady at 337p. Falls were seen in **Jess Toynbee** 1p to 85p, **King & Shaxson** 1p to 125p, **Smith St Aubyn** 2p to 54p and **Clive Discount** 1p to 53p. Standing out against the rest, **Alexanders Discount** added 2p to 409p and **Union Discount** rose 5p to 763p.

Composite insurance shares joined the upward trend, but failed to hold their best levels. **Commercial Union** rose 4p to 193p, **General Accident** 3p to 468p, **Guardian Royal** 7p to 533p, **Minister Assets** 7p to 129p, **Phoenix Assurance** 4p to 440p and **Sun Alliance** 75p to £15¼. **Royal Insurance** closed all square at 528p.

The pot of gold waiting for newspaper publishers at the end of the Reuter's rainbow continued to attract support. **Associated Newspapers**, owner of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*, stood out with a rise of 17p to 483p, while the **Daily Mail Trust** ordinary and "A" added 5p a piece at 880p. **East Midland** and **Allied Press 'A'** firmed 2p to 88p. **Fleet Holdings**, where Mr Robert Holmes a' Court's ACC has just increased its stake to 8.1 per cent, added another 3p to 179. **International Thomson** rose 10p to 815p and **United Newspapers** was wanted 10p better at 330p.

The share price of London Brick, which is the subject of an unwanted £212m takeover bid from Hanson Trust, rose 4p yesterday to 161p in anticipation of a strong defence document due this morning. The company is expected to forecast profits of more han £34m for 1984 and to promise a doubled dividend. An asset valuation the company is preparing will be held back for a later stage of the bid battle.

BAT Industries, still celebrating its recent acquisition of Eagle Star, was yesterday playing down suggestions that it was about to bid for House of Fraser and buy Lonrho's near 30 per cent stake in the Harrods store group. A spokesman for BAT said: "We never coment on market rumours".

The group's acquisition policy is fundamentally unchanged. "We are a dynamic orgaization and from time to time will do things", be added. Following the Eagle Star bid the emphasis at the group appears to be on organic growth, although small acquisition would not be ruled out. BAT rose 1p to 199p, while House of Fraser extended its recent run closing 12p dearer at a new high of 178p – for a two day rise of 30p. Lonrho, which is thought to be ready to sell its stake in Fraser, dipped 1p to 119p on profit taking.

ICL, Britian's largest computer manufacturer, rose 3p to 66p ahead of last night's seminar arranged by the group's broker with leading City analysts to discuss the course of its recovery.

Coates Patons, the textile group, spurted 7p to 107p following another bullish circular, this time from broker De Zoete & Bevan. De Zoete says the shares fundamentally undervalued and that a prospective p/e of between five and six is too low. But the market has never been prepared to back its judgement because it perceived no dnamic changes taking place which would alter the flat profit prfile of the past few years.

However, the position is changing and the shares are now breaking new ground. This year should prove good for the group with an improvement in the quality of earnings.

Stores could only encounter selective support and appear to have been given the cold shoulder by investors of late. The thinking among many analysts is that the sector has run ahead of events lately and must now enter a phase of consolidation. **Owen Owen** spurted 5p to 176p, **Audiotronic** 1p to 25p, **British Home Stores** 3p to 121p, **Burton Group** ordinary 2p to 452p, **Currys** 3p to 308p, **Habitat Mothercare** 2p to 274p, **Raybeck** 3p to 41p and **W H Smith** 2p to 130p.

Among the mail order groups **Freemans** on 98p, **Grattan** on 68p and **Empire Stores** on 72p all added 2p a piece.

The French have again expressed interest at a Channel link and that inspired a rise of 38p to 123p in that old perrenial favourite **Channel Tunnel Investments**. Meanwhile, there was speculative support for some of the takeover favourites including **Harold Ingram** on 343p, **Chamberlain Phipps** on 79p, **Inchcape** on 325p and **Metal Closures** all 7p to 40p higher in thin markets.

The market's underlying strength was highlighted in shares of the insurance broker Sedgwick Group yesterday after a line of 200,000 shares were placed in the market. The price slipped 5p to 235p on news of the placing, but, when it was discovered the ease with which they were snapped up, closed all square on the day.

Brewery shares sparkled in active trade with most of the leaders closing higher. **Bass** rose 7p to 325p, **H P Bulmer** 2p to 243p, **Greenall Whiteley** 1p to 136p, **Arthur Guinness** 1p to 144p, **Scottish & Newcastle** 1½p to 112½p, and **Whitbread 'A'** 4p to 141p. Only **Vaux Breweries**, 2p easier at 235p, and **Wolverhampton & Dudley** a similar figure, lower at 246p failed to improve.

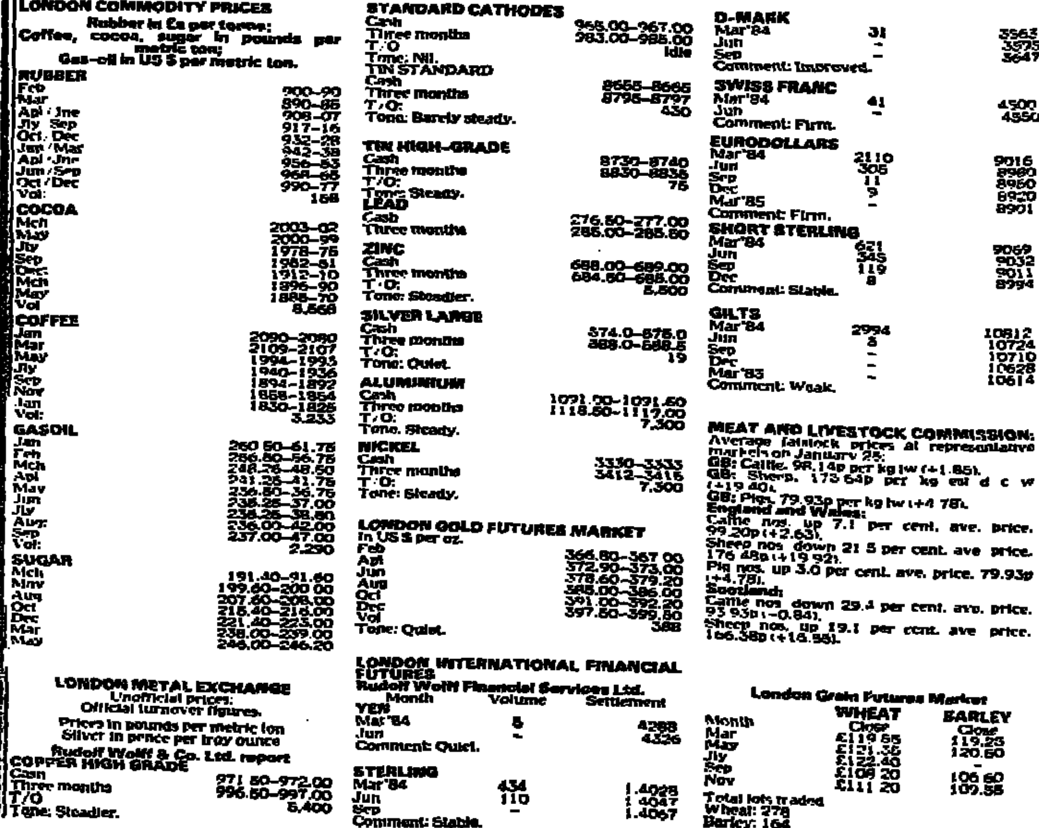
Merchant banker **Kleinwort Benson** has increased its holding in the Charter Trust & Agency with the purchase of an extra 1 million shares. Kleinwort now speaks for 5.16 million shares, or 6.4 per cent of the total issued capital. **Charter Trust** closed unchanged at 66p.

The private investment group **Establishment Plambit** has bought an extra 50,000 shares in the David Dixon Group lifting its holding to 525,000 shares, or 28.9 per cent. This holding combined holding of the two parties to 610,000 shares (33.58 per cent) or 29.96 of the voting rights. David Dixon was unmoved on the news at 112p.

The trustees of the **Desoutter Bros** pension fund have bought 500,000 shares in the company representing 5.3 per cent of the equity. Shares of the powered hand tools manufacturer were unchanged at 106p.

The **Prudential Corporation** bought 318,000 shares in Deritend Stamping, the forging, casting and electrical group. This takes its stake up to 6.03 per cent. **Deritend** closed unchanged at a high of 101p.

COMMODITIES



LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Rubber in £s per tonne: Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton; Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
Feb	900-90
Mar	890-85
Apl/Jne	908-07
Jly/Sep	917-16
Oct/Dec	932-28
Jan/Mar	942-38
Apl/Jne	956-53
Jun/Sep	968-68
Oct/Dec	990-77
Vol:	158

COCOA	
Mch	2003-02
May	2000-99
Jly	1978-75
Sep	1982-81
Dec	1912-10
Mch	1896-90
May	1888-70
Vol	8,568

COFFEE	
Jan	2090-2080
Mar	2109-2107
May	1994-1993
Jly	1940-1936
Sep	1894-1892
Nov	1858-1854
Jan	1830-1825
Vol:	3,233

GASOIL	
Jan	260.50-61.75
Feb	256.80-56.75
Mch	248.25-48.50
Apl	241.25-41.75
May	236.80-36.75
Jun	238.25-37.00
Jly	238.25-38.80
Aug	236.00-42.00
Sep	237.00-47.00
Vol:	2,290

SUGAR	
Mch	191.40-91.60
May	199.60-200.00
Aug	207.60-208.00
Oct	215.40-216.00
Dec	221.40-223.00
Mar	238.00-239.00
May	246.00-246.20

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Unofficial prices; Official turnover figures. Prices in pounds per metric ton. Silver in pence per troy ounce. Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	971.50-972.00
Three months	996.50-997.00
T/O	5,400
Tone: Steadier.	
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	965.00-967.00
Three months	983.00-985.00
T/O	Idle
Tone: Nil.	
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	8655-8665
Three months	8795-8797
T/O:	430
Tone: Barely steady.	
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8730-8740
Three months	8830-8835
T/O:	75
Tone: Steady.	
LEAD	
Cash	276.50-277.00
Three months	285.00-285.50
ZINC	
Cash	688.00-689.00
Three months	684.50-685.00
T/O:	5,500
Tone: Steadier.	
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	574.0-575.0
Three months	588.0-588.5
T/O:	19
Tone: Quiet.	
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1091.50-1091.60
Three months	1118.50-1117.00
T/O:	7,300
Tone. Steady.	
NICKEL	
Cash	3330-3335
Three months	3412-3415
T/O:	7,300
Tone: Steady.	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

In US $ per oz.	
Feb	366.80-367.00
Apl	372.90-373.00
Jun	378.60-379.20
Aug	385.00-386.00
Oct	391.00-392.20
Dec	397.50-399.80
Vol	388
Tone: Quiet.	

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES

Rudolf Wolff Financial Services Ltd.

Month	Volume	Settlement
YEN		
Mar'84	5	4288
Jun	–	4326
Comment: Quiet.		
STERLING		
Mar'84	434	1.4028
Jun	110	1.4047
Sep	–	1.4067
Comment: Stable.		
D-MARK		
Mar'84	31	3563
Jun	–	3575
Sep	–	3647
Comment: Improved.		
SWISS FRANC		
Mar'84	41	4500
Jun	–	4550
Comment: Firm.		
EURODOLLARS		
Mar'84	2110	9016
Jun	305	8980
Sep	11	8960
Dec	9	8920
Mar'85	–	8901
Comment: Firm.		
SHORT STERLING		
Mar'84	621	9069
Jun	345	9032
Sep	119	9011
Dec	8	8994
Comment: Stable.		
GILTS		
Mar'84	2994	10812
Jun	8	10724
Sep	–	10710
Dec	–	10628
Mar'85	–	10614
Comment: Weak.		

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 25:

GB: Cattle, 98.14p per kg lw (+1.85).
GB: Sheep, 173.64p per kg est d c w (+19.40).
GB: Pigs, 79.93p per kg lw (+4.78).
England and Wales:
Cattle nos. up 7.1 per cent, ave. price, 99.20p (+2.63).
Sheep nos. down 21.5 per cent, ave. price, 176.48p (+19.92).
Pig nos. up 3.0 per cent, ave. price, 79.93p (+4.78).
Scotland:
Cattle nos. down 29.4 per cent, ave. price, 93.93p (–0.84).
Sheep nos. up 19.1 per cent, ave. price, 166.38p (+16.98).

London Grain Futures Market

Month	WHEAT Close	BARLEY Close
Mar	£119.65	119.25
May	£121.35	120.60
Jly	£122.40	–
Sep	£109.20	106.60
Nov	£111.20	109.55

Total lots traded
Wheat: 278
Barley: 164

Intervision in leasing link with CBS/Fox

Intervision, the video cassette distributors with a USM share presence, has *forged a 15-year* leasing link with CBS/Fox, the American *entertainments* group.

Through its British off shoot, CBS/Fox is acquiring a half share in two Intervision leasing companies set up nine months ago.

The Intervision operations lease video cassettes to garages and *off-licences, which* then rent them to viewers.

Intervision-CBS/Fox *intends* to cover all available world markets with the exception of the US and Canada. The partnership hopes to make a deal with an international oil group to sell through its *Australian garage chain*. West Germany is another market which features in its early plans.

Intervision is the first video leaser to form a joint company with a big Hollywood group. Yesterday its shares, strong lately, fell 2p to 32p.

In brief

● **Bootham Engineers:** Dividend 3p (6p) for year to October 31, 1983. Group turnover £7.859 (£7.819.716). Pretax profit £25.542 (£106.387). Extraordinary debit – cost of closure of a factory and related redundancies £29.614 *(nil)*. Leaving group profit attributable to shareholders £14.676 (£116.918). EPS 4.25p (11.25p). Shares 110 down 28.

● **M J Gleeson Group:** At the annual meeting yesterday, the chairman, Mr *J P* Gleeson, said that turnover for 1983-1984 should be *at the same level* as attained in 1982-1983 and there was a possibility of an improved trading margin, despite pressures on the construction industry at home, when the Nigerian contract was completed.

● **KLP Group:** Results for the year *to September 30, 1983*. Dividend 1.6p for year (nil). Waivers by *directors have* reduced cost of dividend by 77 per cent. Figures in £000. Turnover 5.839 (5.231). Pretax profit 548 (408). Tax 283 (227). Minorities nil (2) EPS 6.76p (4.67p).

● **McLeod Russel:** First interim statement on an 18-month period to September 30, 1984. Interim dividend 3.5p.

In the UK Masons Company's paint manufacturing company is trading above the level of the previous year in volume and profit terms.

Arthur Edge, the company's drop forging business, is trading profitably at a higher level than last year, although it continues *to experience stiff competition*.

● **Elders:** Elders has acquired 22 million ordinary in Goodman Group, a leading New Zealand public company, with a market capitalization of NZ$330m. This investment of approximately 20 per cent of the issued capital offers Elders *the opportunity to* become more closely involved in New Zealand and in the increasing economic activity between the two countries.

● **Alfred Walker:** Results for half year to October 31, 1983. *The board forecast for the year* to April 30, 1984. A dividend of not less than 0.75p for each share currently in issue. Figures in £000. Group turnover 457 (354). Pretax profit 30 (30). After interest. No tax (same). EPS *1.71p (1.71p)*. Shares unchanged at 73.

● **DPCE Holdings:** Half year to December 31, 1983. Interim dividend *0.7p*. Figures in £000. Revenue 3.404 (2.486). Loan stock interest 4 (60). Pretax profit *818 (459). Tax 268 (140).* Attributable to members 550 (319). EPS *4.7p*.

Old Lady shows the financial world an acceptable face of supervision

As the debate about investor protection grows, John Cooper studies how the Bank of England tackled the role of banks' referee

The question of the protection of investors and depositors – and the wider issue *of how* financial markets and institutions should be *regulated* – has been thrown into the headlines once again by three events.

First, came the news on *January* 13 that the New Cross Building Society was to be *merged with the much larger* Woolwich Equitable Building Society, after *orders made* by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies effectively withdrawing the New Cross's designation of "trustee status" and denying it the right to accept further investments.

Secondly, Part 1 of Professor Lawrence Gowers Review of Investor *Protection* was *published* on January 18. It made wide-ranging proposals for the regulation of the institutions and markets concerned with *investment*.

And thirdly, there has been a spate of *announcements of* deals, effected and still in prospect, for banks and other financial institutions domestic and overseas, to buy into existing London Stock Exchange firms and other financial institutions, thereby heralding a *re-drawing of the City institutional* map and provoking a keen debate on whether the authorities should step in to influence the map's shape and how, eventually, the new, sometimes conglomerate, institutions which emerge should be regulated.

> **Bankers have learnt to live comfortably with the new framework**

As a background to the public debate on these matters, it is worth recalling that the banking community, as distinct from the investment community and the building societies, has recently experienced some radical changes in the manner in which it is supervised and the legal *framework in which that supervision* is undertaken. The banking community, with one or two minor exceptions, has learnt to live comfortably with the new style and the new framework.

The basis of the new system of supervision is the Banking Act 1979. *In the words of Mr* John Fforde, an adviser to the Governor of the Bank of England: "The central provision of this comprehensive legislation is a general prohibition on the acceptance of deposits without specific authorization of the Bank of England.

"The Act contains certain broadly drawn prudential criteria relating to the integrity of management, the adequacy of capital and liquidity and the prudent conduct of the business against which the Bank as *supervisory* authority, may grant deposit-taking authority.

"But it leaves a wider measure of discretion to the Bank on the interpretation and application to individual deposit-taking companies of the criteria *for initial* and continuing authorization.

"So the Bank turned its attention to the central supervisory issues of the measurement and assessment of liquidity, capital adequacy and foreign currency exposure. This comprehensive overhaul of the techniques of banking supervision aimed to take account of the much greater variety of financial instruments in bank balance sheets and the increased variability in their value".

In setting about this task of overhauling the *techniques* of banking supervision, the Bank of England, to its eternal credit *and the comfort of the banking* community, set its face firmly against any regime which smacked of *dirigisme* and adopted a flexible approach involving the close participation of the supervised banks themselves.

This participitative approach *had two aspects. First, the Bank* established a common conceptual framework for any discussion about the central supervisory issues of the measurement and assessment of liquidity, capital adequacy and *foreign currency exposure*.

It did so, not by retreating to an *ivory tower and producing* concepts unfamiliar to the practitioners of banking in the market place, but rather by *initiating* a wide-ranging discussion with those practitioners, from which emerged papers *acceptable as much to the* supervised as the supervisors.

The second participatitive aspect lies in the very technique *of supervision subsequently* practised by the Bank. Based on regular monthly and quarterly statistical returns made by each bank and deposit-taking institution authorised under the Act, this technique involves regular *meetings with the senior* management of those institutions to discuss their condition in *terms* of the agreed conceptual framework

And it should be emphasized that all the aspects of an institution's condition which come up at these meetings are, *or certainly ought to be, of* continuing concern to its senior management. A practical example is provided by the exposure to changes in foreign exchange rates to which a bank is open.

Methods for measuring this exposure have been agreed between *the Bank and the* banking community and set out clearly in a paper published by *the Bank in April, 1981*. But while the Bank's paper is clear as to how to assess the foreign currency exposure of a bank, it is scrupulously silent on the specific maximum prudent level of exposure for any one bank.

> **'It is important that the arbiter's ruling be readily accepted'**

In the words of the 1981 paper: "The Bank will not set any formal limits on the size of a bank's foreign currency positions, but will agree dealing *position guidelines* with each institution individually. These will take account of the institution's particular circumstances and expertise". A similar, individual, approach is explicit in the Bank's papers on *Capital Adequacy* and The Measurement of Liquidity.

The Bank's approach to supervision was clearly set out by Mr Peter Cooke, the Head of Banking Supervision at the Bank, in an address in November, 1982. He said: "It is judgments about management which *are at the heart of our* supervisory process – not only from the evidence of the balance sheet and the profit performance but from face-to-face discussions with senior management *of all* supervised institutions.

"The Bank's system is designed to enable the supervisor to sit alongside *management*, sharing in his thinking. Although we have no wish to be directly involved in management we certainly regard it as of crucial importance to *have* a good understanding of the *thrust of management in a* business".

But it should never be forgotten who has the last say in this style of supervision. As Mr Cooke put it: "I should make it clear . . . that, notwithstanding *this emphasis, and in my* view very proper emphasis, which we put on flexibility and letting managements manage, there will always be a point at which the supervisor must be the final arbiter. Hopefully, this only *arises infrequently and when* there is no alternative.

"It is also important that the arbiter's ruling should be *readily accepted. That is* why the Bank as an institution has always set out to be closely involved in the market.

"The professionals must be prepared to accept the referee's decision. There will always be some aspects of supervision where there can be no absolute or objective basis for applying judgment. Capital adequacy is *perhaps the most obvious* example. In this area, particularly, there will be occasions when the supervisor has to say 'You may go no further' ".

As already noted, this system of regulation has gained the respect and acquiescence of the great majority of the banking *community. But it would be* naive to try to draw too many lessons from it for the current debate on the protection of investors and of depositors with *building* societies.

The main worries of most of the *investment community* about Professor Gower's proposals for *a* new Investor Protection Act are probably based on a fear that a heavy *dirigiste* hand from Whitehall will stifle the initiatives, business and prosperity of the investment community.

Indeed, Professor Gower himself concedes in his Review the point that "inevitably there is a tension between market efficiency and investor protection which often pull in different directions", though he remarks that he sees no evidence that the degree of regulation he is proposing itself *impairs market efficiency*.

These same worries were felt – and voiced – most keenly within the banking community *when the* Banking *Act* was under active discussion.

For the time being, such worries have been allayed. But the banking community is frighteningly aware that this is *simply due to the* manner in which the Bank of England exercises its supervisory authority.

Perhaps the clearest lesson to be drawn is that the *acceptability, by the supervised*, of banking supervision in the cause of deposit protection depends crucially on the goodwill, flexibility and practicality of the supervisors themselves.

Other financial institutions facing the prospect of similar supervision in the cause of investor protection may well reflect on this lesson when *commenting* on Professor Gower's proposed roles for the Department of Trade, the Council for the Securities Industry and recognized self-regulatory agencies.

The author, a merchant banker, is a director of Singer & Friedlander. The issues of bank supervision are more fully discussed in his book The Management and Regulation of Banks, published by Macmillan today.

Charles Barker sets market launch date

By Derek Pain

Charles Barker, Britain's oldest advertising agency, intends to bring its shares to the stock market in 1986, the *chairman, Mr Antony Snow*, said yesterday.

He was speaking after the first meeting of the reshaped Charles Barker board. The Barker decision to wait until 1986 – when its 1985 results will be available – is, apparently, against the wishes of the group's financial advisers who suggested an ealier flotation.

Mr Snow became chairman last June after Mr Julian Wellesley was ousted.

He and his colleagues take the view that the company will be in a much stronger position to obtain the best possible share rating if it hangs on for a few years and in the meantime sharply *improves* its *profits*.

The company will almost certainly seek a full listing.

Yesterday it was announced that two former Charles Barker *men*, Mr Reg Valin and Mr Richard Pollen, were bringing their agency, Valin Pollen, to the USM.

Messrs Valin and Pollen established their company in 1979. Turnover is £8,250,000 and profits £275,000.

Charles Barker achieved pretax profits of *£857,000* for 1982 and expects to have topped £1m last year. It is Britain's sixth largest agency with billings of £98m last year.

About 60 per cent of its shares are owned by City institutional investors. Staff own 30 per cent and America's oldest advertising agency, N W Ayer, has a 10 per cent shareholding.

Bassett soars after bid

By Jeremy Warner

The shares of Bassett Foods, the liquorice allsorts confectionery company, rose on the stock market yesterday after the news of the £17.3m takeover bid from Avana Group.

The 2-for-7 share swop terms *that Avana, the fast-growing* Cardiff- based Marks & Spencer food supplier, is offering were formally condemned by Bassett's chief executive, Mr Harold Stokes as "unacceptable, unsolicited and unwelcome".

The terms values each Basset share at 144p. On the stock market the shares soared 67p in *first dealings to 166p in* anticipation of a long takeover battle.

Avana's managing director, Dr John Randall, said: "We had hoped that after due consideration with its finiancial advisor, S G Warburg, Bassett would have been able to recommend *the bid but obviously this is not* to be.

Bassett has experienced several years of troubled trading, but *in the half year to the end of* last October its profits showed a big improvement.

Lookers profits jump to £1.4m

Lookers, garage group, is proposing a 1-for-10 scrip issue. A final dividend of 2.6p on increased capital will be paid making 4p (3.85) for the year to *September 30*.

Pretax profits for the year *were £1.4 against* £873,000 on turnover up from £86.5m to £134.7*m*. A tax charge of £205,000 compared with a credit of £226,000.

Extraodinary debits were £227,000. Earning per share have increased from 14.8p to 16.2p.

The group is now operating from a much wider and stronger base and profits for the first quarter of the current year show a healthy improvement over the same period *last* year.

Overall, outlook for this year is for an improvement compared with the previous year, despite the competitive trading conditions. The shares rose 2p to 82p on the results.

The profits show a considerable increase even after paying the interest on the purchase price of the Braid acquisition. *The large increase in turnover* reflects the inclusion of Braid Group activities for a full year compared with only two months last year.

Profits from the motor dealerships increased despite *fierce competition. In the parts* departments, the company benefited particularly from the increase efficiency and sales arising from the success of the computerization programme.

Profits from leasing and contract hire activities have reached a record high level and *should continue to do well* despite falling-used car prices.

● **Stakis:** Chairman, Reo Stakis, says in his annual statement: "Last January's rights issue has given the group renewed financial strength and the revaluatuation of our properties will how that our gearing levels are even lower *than those indicated in these* accounts. This sound financial platform gives your board additional confidence in its plans to expand all the activities of the group.

"We have made a most promising start to 1983/84 with all divisions trading ahead of last year. I look to the future with confidence and trust that *these initial* results presage another record year in *1983/84*."

● **Whatlings:** results for the year to September 30, 1983. Figures in (£000). Final dividend 1.75p making 3p (2.5p) Turnover 25,031 (23,880). Group pretax profit 707 (693). Tax 52 (43). EPS 16.38p (16.25p). CCA profit before tax 616 (618) shares 77p, up 1p.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION of

Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL

(Italian National Electric Energy Agency)

7½ Per Cent. 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970

Due March 1, 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, on behalf of Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL, that on March 1, 1984, $3,000,000 principal amount of its 7½ Per Cent. 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970 will be redeemed out of moneys to be paid by it to Dillon, Read & Co. Inc., as Principal Paying Agent, pursuant to the mandatory, annual redemption requirement of said Bonds and to the related Authenticating Agency Agreement and Paying Agency Agreement, each dated as of March 1, 1970. The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Authenticating Agent, has selected, by lot, for such redemption the Bonds bearing the following serial numbers:

BONDS SELECTED FOR REDEMPTION

13	1854	3524	5589	7245	8970	10700	12273	13799	15228	16960	18735	20555	22564	24844	26363	27908	29731	31663	33728	35461	37807	39623	41333	43194	44907	46572	48483
17	1855	3540	5608	7276	8987	10753	12284	13806	15312	16975	18742	20584	22598	24661	26380	27923	29738	31679	33753	35538	37825	39632	41376	43216	44902	46585	48498
21	1860	3555	5610	7288	9015	10754	12299	13808	15322	16980	18761	20585	22600	24663	26385	28020	29744	31714	33785	35585	37828	39647	41404	43221	44934	46626	48531
60	1865	3583	5611	7295	9045	10803	12302	13820	15329	16991	18767	20629	22606	24665	26398	28095	29804	31721	33790	35586	37846	39694	41433	43224	44977	46617	48533
100	1877	3593	5620	7301	9053	10805	12313	13824	15339	16997	18845	20635	22614	24666	26454	28111	29808	31752	33814	35588	37853	39738	41463	43240	44980	[illegible]	48562
135	1936	3604	5624	7327	9083	10810	12320	13825	15346	17003	18866	20636	22619	24677	26486	28119	29810	31766	33827	35602	37863	39742	41482	43253	44983	46717	48573
136	1950	3623	5641	7329	9087	10835	12339	13842	15349	17005	18873	20640	22627	24683	26561	28122	29820	31789	33832	35604	37884	39748	41509	43260	44987	46730	48577
144	1992	3654	5647	7339	9086	10877	12353	13853	15351	17040	18883	20645	22629	24693	26562	28155	29830	31868	33837	35634	37897	39752	41538	43266	45025	46731	48599
173	2013	3665	5651	7398	9107	10880	12356	13854	15353	17043	18917	20683	22680	24695	26569	28156	29857	31873	33848	35655	37898	39753	41543	43277	45032	46778	48603
189	2014	3667	5655	7400	9118	10891	12364	13861	15356	17070	18923	20686	22682	24812	26576	28187	29810	31884	33849	35709	37991	39754	41574	43284	45036	46791	48665
190	2020	3684	5659	7403	9129	10921	12408	13915	15363	17075	18945	20680	22699	24814	26577	28193	29911	31895	33857	35748	37994	39807	41581	43287	45039	46818	48669
191	2036	3726	5717	7408	9184	10965	12417	13917	15377	17108	18948	20731	22731	24821	26601	28194	29913	31898	33875	35783	38021	39847	41605	43326	45042	46838	48670
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1357	3164	5300	6993	8508	10314	11877	13413	14975	16696	18500	20250	22206	[illegible]	26126	27668	29325	31256	33491	34985	37216	39025	40889	42832	44199	46242	48071	49881
1393	3188	5323	7000	8618	10323	11889	13434	14983	16714	18501	20251	22212	[illegible]	26136	27669	29337	[illegible]	33494	35002	37252	39048	40886	42878	44205	46245	48081	
1402	3192	5332	7005	8628	10330	11890	13441	14989	16724	18505	20281	22272	[illegible]	26152	[illegible]	29348	[illegible]	33495	35013	37321	39080	40909	42901	44225	46247	48093	
1415	3195	5342	7006	8636	10332	11899	13471	15003	16727	18511	20289	22274	[illegible]	26155	27697	[illegible]	[illegible]	33500	35030	37362	39081	40911	42962	44303	46261	48126	
1416	3246	5343	7008	8638	10334	11918	13472	15004	16732	18512	20293	22276	24276	26177	27698	[illegible]	[illegible]	33503	35043	37502	39085	40915	42964	44309	46263	48155	
1428	3257	5357	7031	8658	10365	11928	13496	15010	16757	18516	20308	22289	24260	26190	27722	29363	[illegible]	33507	35080	37520	39084	40951	42965	44311	46329	48180	
1485	3265	5363	7033	8663	10374	11936	13515	15011	16774	18528	20317	22295	24288	26191	27725	29365	31352	33508	35091	37521	39100	40981	42966	44312	46348	48192	
1510	3276	5365	7040	8667	10376	11937	13538	15033	16782	18543	20320	22299	24289	26202	27738	29366	31353	33516	35099	37525	39136	40982	42967	44313	46374	48194	
1542	3308	5380	7043	8689	10396	11939	13596	15066	16798	[illegible]	20324	22303	[illegible]	26204	27747	29387	[illegible]	33517	35105	37534	39155	40984	42975	44316	46383	48205	
1578	3310	5393	7053	8724	10433	11946	13597	15068	16807	[illegible]	[illegible]	22324	[illegible]	26205	27750	[illegible]	[illegible]	33518	35127	37536	39184	41009	42982	44319	46386	48254	
1612	3319	5402	7055	8746	10440	11979	13609	15076	16812	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	26238	27755	[illegible]	[illegible]	33558	35172	37542	39195	41097	42999	44388	46387	48271	
1615	3325	5415	7075	8782	10450	12011	13643	15078	16835	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	26255	27756	[illegible]	[illegible]	33557	35181	37561	39216	41125	43007	44390	46419	48286	
1643	3331	5418	7098	8789	10507	12027	13649	15079	16847	[illegible]	[illegible]	22362	[illegible]	26257	27765	[illegible]	[illegible]	33556	35220	37568	39219	41135	43008	44416	46423	48311	
1697	3332	5441	7099	8815	10510	12036	13653	15080	16856	[illegible]	[illegible]	22369	[illegible]	26258	27772	[illegible]	[illegible]	33566	35238	37572	39255	41138	43025	44432	46424	48316	
1739	3333	5488	7107	8820	10512	12041	13659	15084	16869	[illegible]	[illegible]	22377	[illegible]	26262	27778	[illegible]	[illegible]	33570	35253	37574	39258	41139	43028	44435	46428	48325	
1740	3342	5508	7109	8848	10539	12057	13660	15094	16870	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	26274	27788	[illegible]	[illegible]	33586	35271	37580	39264	41141	43038	44457	46457	48344	
1775	3343	5516	7150	8861	10551	12064	13662	15097	16877	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	26288	27789	[illegible]	[illegible]	33589	35297	37588	39271	41153	43056	44491	46484	48346	
1796	3357	5521	7163	8888	10562	12096	13671	15098	16880	18633	20475	22402	24478	26295	27792	29535	31514	33580	35298	37614	39272	41169	43080	44523	46518	48347	
1801	3376	5538	7170	8868	10581	12118	13674	15109	16914	18634	20479	22409	24510	26298	27796	29538	31515	33610	35304	37651	39278	41214	43122	44567	46586	48368	
1807	3401	5543	7185	8871	10599	12132	13713	15130	16935	18648	20494	22452	24512	26301	27845	29540	31552	33613	35374	37656	39282	41260	43135	44604	46599	48369	
1814	3411	5557	7186	8887	10634	12158	13715	15133	16940	18661	20500	22541	24521	26308	27849	29552	31555	33627	35388	37689	39283	41288	43156	44648	46607	48376	
1825	3444	5562	7205	8889	10667	12184	13716	15165	16944	18686	20531	22543	24606	26314	27860	29574	31558	33680	35416	37673	39296	41270	43157	44739	46618	48385	
1844	3447	5584	7224	8898	10868	12191	13750	15166	16950	18680	20534	22545	24625	26325	27861	29583	31579	33692	35418	37676	39369	41281	43167	44813	46659	48388	
1846	3452	5565	7241	8902	10877	12230	13753	15224	16953	18685	20535	22554	24631	26344	27880	29587	31586	33698	35432	37758	39411	41302	43168	44827	46667	48429	
1853	3499	5568	7244	8919	10898	12258	13781	15225	16954	18697	20545	22563	24643	26359	27893	29706	31602	33704	35451	37798	39534	41320	43192	44888	46671	48456	

Bonds so selected for redemption will become and be due and payable in United States dollars on March 1, 1984, at the office of Dillon, Read & Co. Inc., 535 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022, at one hundred per cent (100%) of the principal amount thereof with interest accrued thereon to the redemption date. Bonds should be presented for redemption together with all appurtenant coupons maturing subsequent to the redemption date. If moneys for the redemption of all the Bonds to be redeemed are available at the office of Dillon, Read & Co. Inc. on the redemption date, interest thereon will cease to accrue from and after such date.

At the option of the respective holders of bearer Bonds selected for redemption, the principal amount thereof and interest thereon may be collected upon presentation at the offices of the following Co-Paying Agents: in Luxembourg-Ville, Grand Duché of Luxembourg at the principal office of Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas pour le Grand Duché de Luxembourg S.A., or in Milan, Italy at the principal branch of Banca Commerciale Italiana S.p.A., or in London, United Kingdom at the principal office of S. G. Warburg & Co. Limited, or in Frankfurt, a/M, Federal Republic of Germany at the principal office of Deutsche Bank A.G. Additionally, insurance companies doing business in the Republic of Italy may present for redemption Bonds registered as to principal, which they own, at the principal branch of the Co-Paying Agent in Milan, Italy.

Dated: January 26, 1984

DILLON, READ & CO. INC.
Principal Paying Agent

FOOTBALL

Derby get away from it all in order to come back to it with a clear head

Peter Taylor, the Derby County manager, has taken his first-team squad of 12 players to Scarborough for a two-day break to prepare for Saturday's FA Cup fourth-round home tie against Telford United. Despite branding some of his players cheats after the club's fifth consecutive league defeat last Saturday, he has kept faith with the players who figured in the 3-0 defeat at Oldham.


Taylor: holiday by the sea

"It is important that we get away from it all and try to work a few things out – perhaps the seaside wind will clear our heads," Taylor said. The trip has been privately sponsored for the hard-up club, who are hoping that Saturday's game will go on for financial reasons. A two-inch layer of snow cloaks the Baseball ground.

Huddersfield Town have greater problems as they prepare for the visit of Notts County. Their pitch is under eight inches of snow and further falls woud make it impossible to clear in time to avoid a postponement to Tuesday. The second division club, who knocked out Queen's Park Rangers in the last round, have six players under treatment; of these only Sutton and Lillis are likely to be fit in time.

Bournemouth have two players under treatment but both should be fit for the trip to Middlesbrough. Thompson, a forward, and La Ronde, a defender, have been pencilled in for the game, as has Williams in midfield, who is likely to return after injury. Bournemouth will wait until after a referee's inspection of the pitch tomorrow morning before travelling. All but a handful of 600 special train tickets had been sold; other supporters will travel north by coach and plane.

Allan Clarke has taken his Scunthorpe squad back to school to prepare for their visit to West Bromwich Albion. Heavy snow has hampered the third division club's training schedule this week and the manager has staged the last few practices in a local school sports hall.

"It's not ideal but at least we are able to get in some work," Clarke said. He will not announce his side until just before the match.

Sam Ellis, the Blackpool manager, has sentenced his players to strict training for their tie at Oxford. His squad have been putting in time at the Kirkham Open Prison gymnasium because their own training ground is frozen hard. The squad is depleted through suspensions and injuries and Ellis is not prepared to risk further mishaps.

Norwich City left the Norfolk snow last night for outdoor training at Bisham Abbey before their tie at Tottenham. The party included Watson, the captain, who looks likely to return to the defence after injury. He missed last Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Nottingham Forest because of concussion.

Cross, the Shewsbury defender whose goal helped them beat Ipswich Town two years ago, has recovered from a knee injury and will play in a repeat tie on Saturday. Griffin, a central defender, has not trained this week. He has damaged a calf muscle and is given a 50-50 chance.

Mariner, who missed Ipswich's last two games with flu, is back in training.

Kendall has selection problems

Everton's manager, Howard Kendall, has selection problems after the Tuesday night 4-1 Milk Cup Defeat of Oxford United on Tuesday night.

For the FA Cup match with Gillingham at Everton on Saturday he must decide whether to disrupt the team who have put Everton into their twentieth Cup seni- final and recall the forward Andy Gray. Gray missed last Saturday's defeat of Tottenham Hotspur with influenza, and the Oxford win because he is ineligible, having played earlier in the competition for Wolverhampton Wanderers. He will be available for the Gillingham tie but may have to be content with a substitute's shirt, unless Kendall reshuffles the team unbeaten in their last seven games.

Kendall hinted at his thinking when he said: "It was a superb team effort against Oxford.

Everton's win earns them a semi-final match at Aston Villa, their conquerors in the 1977 final. The Villa manager, Tony Barton, was at Goodison Park on Tuesday but left early and missed the last two goals.

Richardson, Sheedy and Heath put Everton into a 3-0 lead before Hinshelwood scored for Oxford. Sharp hit a fourth goal for Everton.

● Preston could lose their acting manager, Alan Kelly, unless they offer him a permanent contract. Kelly stepped up just before Christmas after the departure of Gordon Lee but his Deepdale coaching contract expires at the end of the season.

Tuesday's results

MILK CUP: Fifth round replay: Everton 4, Oxford United 1.
THIRD DIVISION: Postponed: Plymouth v Millwall.
FOURTH DIVISION: Swindon 1, Bristol City 1.
WELSH FA CUP: Fourth round replay: Rhyl 1, Wrexham 3.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Wokingham 3, Hendon 0. First division: Hornchurch 1, Chesham 1; Tilbury 0, Hertford 0; Woking 5, Metropolitan Police 1. Postponed: Cheshunt v Feltham, Clapton v Maidenhead, Leatherhead v Epsom.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dartford 3, Chelmsford 0.
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Trowbridge 1, Maidstone 2.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Chelsea 3, Fulham 2; Watford 4, Reading 0; Queen's Park Rangers 5, Charlton 0. Postponed: Birmingham v Bristol Rovers; Brighton v Swansea.
LONDON SENIOR CUP: First round: Leyton-Wingate 1, Hampton 0; Walthamstow Avenue 2, Bishops Stortford 1; Leytonstone and Ilford 2, Feltham 1 (aet). Postponed: Barking v Barnes; Boreham Wood v Sutton United.
SURREY SENIOR CUP: First round: Corinthian- Casuals 0, Kingstonian 1.
MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP: Second round: Wembley 1, Enfield 1.
● All FA Trophy, Northern Premier League and Central League matches postponed.

Wednesday woe as Rush cuts loose

Liverpool 3
Sheffield Wednesday 0

The Milk Cup, the game's second greatest leveller, proved just that as the holders levelled their second division challengers in this fifth-round replay at Anfield last night.

Wednesday struck an important psychological blow when Lyons, the former Everton captain won the toss and made Liverpool attack their favoured Kop end in the first half.

Within seconds of the start Liverpool's captain, Souness, was felled in a collision with Pearson and needed lengthy attention before being able to continue. Kennedy's error should have given Wednesday a third minute lead but Bannister's low cross was missed in front of goal by Varadi.

Nicol headed Rush's cross narrowly over and minutes later a perfectly timed tackle by Smith robbed Rush, who had only Hodge to beat.

Liverpool silenced Wednesday's contingent by snatching a 38th minute lead, almost inevitably through Rush. Johnston met Lee's corner with a header brilliantly saved by Hodge but Rush, at full stretch, turned the loose ball back into the net for his 28th goal of the season.

Lee tested Hodge with a long-range shot, which the Wednesday goalkeeper held at the second attempt. Liverpool were forced on the defensive as the second division side pressed forward in search of an equalizer.

Liverpool cut short Wednesday's revival hopes with a second goal through Robinson in the seventysecond minute. Robinson took the ball past Madden and carefully picked his spot before beating Hodge.

Grobbelaar saved a powerful header from Banister but Liverpool broke almost immediately to score a third goal in the 84th minute through Rush. When Robinson headed down Neal's free kick Rush beat Hodge with a low shot into the right-hand corner.

LIVERPOOL: Grobbelaar; Neal, Kennedy, Lawrenson, Nicol, Hansen, Robinson, Lee, Rush, Johnston, Souness.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: Hodge; Sterland, Shirtliff, Smith, Lyons, Madden, Megson, Bannister, Varadi, Pearson, Shelton.
Referee: M Heath (Stoke-on-Trent).

Hudson goes back to Stoke on month's loan

Alan Hudson, Chelsea's former England international midfield player, has signed for Stoke on a month's loan. He could make his first division return on Saturday against Arsenal – one of his former clubs.


Hudson: on trial

Bill Asprey, Stoke's manager, travelled to London yesterday afternoon to sort out Hudson's loan with the Chelsea manager, John Neal. Hudson, aged 33, in his second spell with Chelsea made over 100 league appearances in a three-year spell in the mid 70's with Stoke. He then spent a season at Highbury, before leaving Britain to play in North America.

Hudson has been unable to get into Chelsea's promotion chasing side this season. He has played regularly in the reserves, and if he proves a success at Stoke it could lead to a long term deal.

● Oxford United and Bournemouth, who have been in the Cup headlines this winter, have been given home ties in the League's new Associate Members Cup for third and fourth division clubs. Oxford play Swindon Town, and Bournemouth play Aldershot. The first round will be played in the week beginning February 20.

FIRST ROUND DRAW: Stockport County v Crewe Alexandra; Bury v Wigan; Rochdale v Preston North End; Tranmere Rovers v Halifax Town; Chester v Blackpool; Burnley v Bolton Wanderers; Rotherham United v Sheffield United; Bradford v Hartlepool; Scunthorpe United v Chesterfield; York City v Hull City; Lincoln City v Doncaster Rovers; Mansfield Town v Darlington; Walsall v Northampton Town; Hereford United v Port Vale; Wrexham v Peterborough United; Oxford United v Swindon Town; Exeter City v Bristol City; Plymouth Argyle v Torquay United; Newport County v Bristol Rovers; Brentford v Orient; Southend United v Reading; Colchester United v Wimbledon; Millwall v Gillingham; Bournemouth v Aldershot.

BOXING

Collins will find no peace with Andries

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

The boxing ability of Tom Collins, of Leeds, will be sorely tested tonight. For the British light-heavyweight champion defends his title against Dennis Andries, of Hackney, a man who believes implicitly in the teaching that a challenger must go looking for his title – even if Andries has fallen flat on his face twice trying to live up to that precept.

The champion can be certain that from the moment the bell goes the Hackney fighter will give him no peace. He will come charging out, arms flailing, his feet scattering memories of many a nifty step that has floated over the floor of the jam and treacle baroque of the Lyceum Ballroom down the Strand.

The two men may not be Britain's best prospects for a world title but there will not be one dull moment in the contest. If Andries connects with the big right the champion will take off and land in the laps of the gods. If Collins who can go to sleep every so often, is awake at the time the challenger launches himself, he can do a neat sidestep and Andries can go stright through the ropes into laps of the ringsiders.

The last time the two men men in 1982 for the title vacated by Bunny Johnson, Collins floored Andries and then neatly draped him over the ropes before winning on points. This time it will be different, the challenger says. He claims that at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel he was fighting off the effect of 'flu.

Collins has come a long way since those days. He has beaten Trevor Caltouse and Antonio Harris tomake the Lonsdale Belt his own. The Harris result was a good one and shows that Collins has learnt to look after himself aginst a hitter. When the champion is going well be can look a high class boxer. He has an explosive right and if he can keep his nerve and concentration he could floor Andries inthe later rounds, but it will not be before he has been bulled across the ring many times.

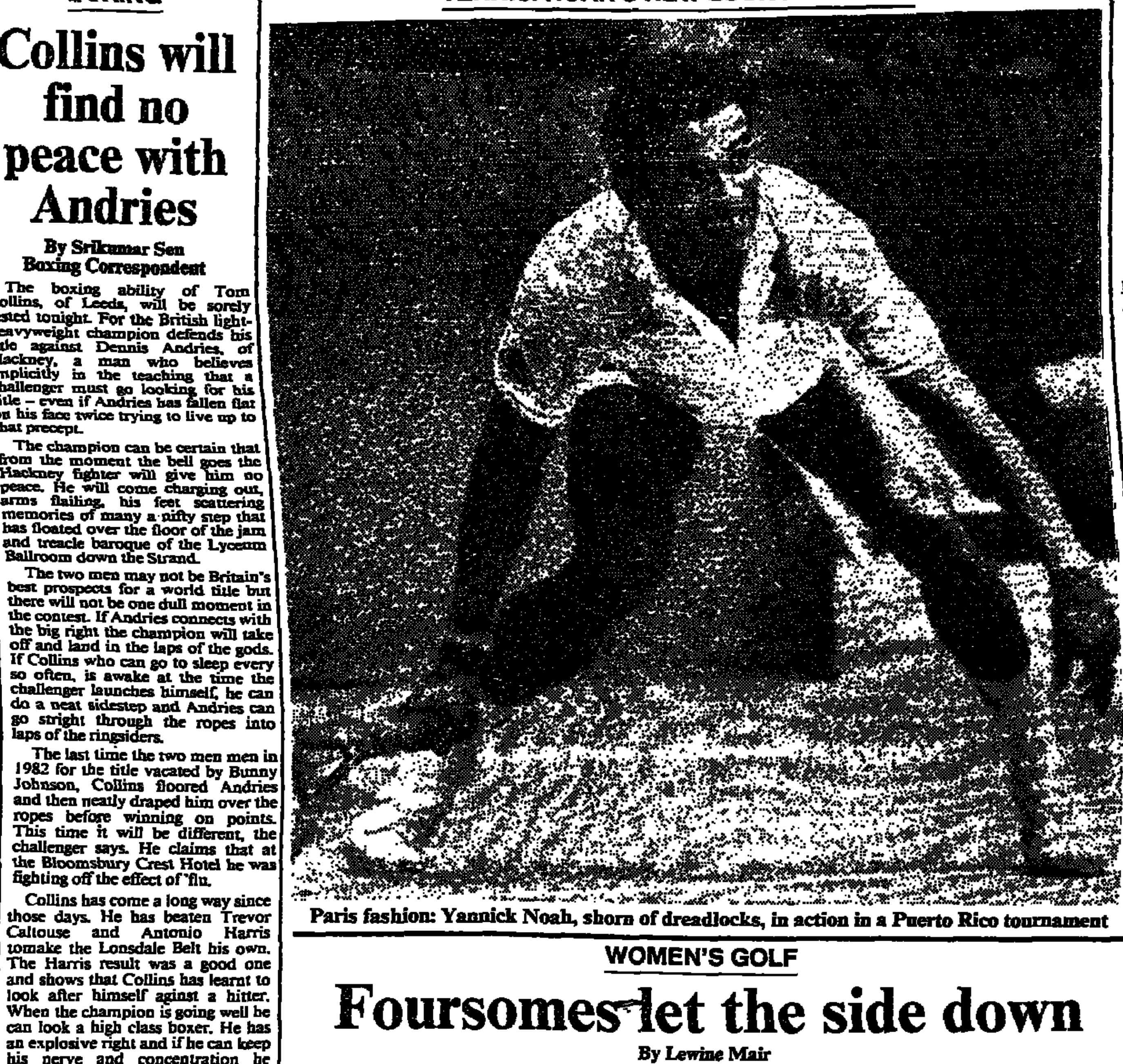
● Tony Sibson has been dropped from the latest World Boxing Council middleweight ratings because of his defeat at the hands of Don Lee, of the United States, in Atlantic City recently. Lee is the newcomer in the list at No 10.

The Leicester boxer could be back in favour if he is successful in his challenge for Louis Acaries's European title at the end of February in Paris. He could move into the Frenchman's ninth place, two behind Mark Kaylor.

Fighter of the month

Koji Kobayashi, of Japan, has been named the World Boxing Council's (WBC) fighter of the month for January after beating Frank Cedeno, of the Philippines, the champion, on January 18 to take the flyweight title.

TENNIS: NOAH'S NEW LOOK REVEALED


Paris fashion: Yannick Noah, shorn of dreadlocks, in action in a Puerto Rico tournament

SNOOKER

Huge break by Stevens finishes Taylor off

By Sydney Friskin

Kirk Stevens of Canada completed a 5-1 victory over David Taylor with a superb break of 105, the highest so far, in the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament at Wembley yesterday. Stevens, who put himself in the quarter-final round, reached the 100 mark in the sixth frame by taking the last red and following up with the blue from long range. The break ended, however, with an unsuccessful shot on the yellow.

To round off a somewhat one-sided match, both players took part in an exhibition frame after which Taylor said: "I had a cue rebutted and it was so slippery that I had no confidence in it. I can obviously play better with another one. I could scarcely pot a ball and that eventually destroyed me".

With Taylor struggling to find his touch, Stevens easily won the first two frames. Taylor, who was leading 37–27 in the second frame, misfired on the last red, leaving it to Stevens, who took it, followed up with the pink and potted all the colours except the black.

Taylor led 43–11 in the third frame but even this position proved insecure, Stevens recovering to win with a break of 63. A late run on the colours from the brown to the black enabled Taylor, who had earlier fluked the yellow, to cut the lead to 3–1 at the interval.

Tuesday evening's match, in which Alex Higgins defeated Doug Mountjoy 5–2, was watched by a crowd of 2,580 who loved every minute of it.

In his match against Mountjoy, Higgins was uncertain at the start and went deeper in error as the more industrious Mountjoy gathered precious points. He made a sparkling break of 100 in the second frame, the highest in the tournament at that stage.

Higgins again proved his capacity to pull himself out of trouble by winning the fourth frame which most people have thought was in Mountjoy's pocket when the Welshman led 68-20 with all the redsout of the way. Higgins who needed two snookers, ended a brilliant manoeuve by potting every colour from the green to the black to win by one point and level the scores at 2-2.

After the interval, Higgins delighted his supporters with his skill and accuracy, winning the fifth frame with a clearance break of 55 and romping through the sixth with breaks of 32 and 43. Mountjoy, who could do little to contain Higginns, had his chance in the seventh frame but lost it when he failed on the pink, which was all Higgins needed to finish the match.

FIRST ROUND: (Canada) bt David Taylor (Manchester) 5-1. Frame scores (Stevens first): 85-9, 54-37, 74-43, 49-60, 63-27, 105-0. Tuesday's match: A Higgins (Manchester) bt D Mountjoy (Ebbw Vale) 5-2. Frame scores (Higgin first): 14-110, 64-46, 5-116, 69-68, 117-4, 85-12, 48-30.
TODAY MATCHES: Quarter-finals: J Spencer v T Griffiths - (2.30); A Higgins v T Knowles (7.30).

WOMEN'S GOLF

Foursomes let the side down

By Lewine Mair

The British women's teams had a much better 1983 in singles than in foursomes, the British Curtis Cup captain, Diane Bailey, told the Ladies' Gulf Union annual meeting in Edinburgh yesterday.

At the Commonwealth tournament in Canada and the Vagliano Trophy at Woodhall Spa, the singles players picked up 19½ points out of a possible 28. In foursomes, however, the record was a paltry four points out of 14.

After the meeting, Mrs Bailey, the former British international who will captain the home side in the Curtis Cup at Muirfield on June 8 and 9, spoke of where she felt things had gone wrong last season. "Our girls tended to stop playing their own game when it came to foursomes," she said. "There was too much conferring over individual shots and, inevitably, a shedding of responsibility."

Margo Bauer, the retiring chairman of the LGU, paid tribute to the behaviour of British team members both at home and abroad: "Seing what is happening in other games, rugby, football and tennis to name but three, makes me appreciate the dignity with which our girls play."

Penny Taylor, who up until now has been in charge of rules and regulations, takes over from Mrs Bauer as chairman, and it was further announced yesterday that Alison McIntosh, an official with the PGA, is the LGU's new general administrator.

● New York (AP) – The American Professional Golf Association tour begins its 35th season tomorrow with 38 events and a record £5½m in prize money.

The first tournament of the season is the Mazda Classic of Deer Creek, which will be held in Deerfield Beach, Florida. For the first time, the LPGA had to hold a qualifying session to get the field down to the maximum of 141 professionals and three amateurs.

John Laupheimer, LPGA commissioner, said yesterday that he expected qualifying to be necessary "10 to 15 times during the year" because of the large number of golfers trying to enter.

The field for the Deer Creek tournament will include 1983 player of the year Patty Sheehan, defending champion Pat Bradley, the Mazda LPGA series winner in 1983, and new mother Nancy Lopez, returning to the tour after a six month break.

Miss Sheehan, 27, won four tournaments, including the LPGA championship, last year and finished second on the money winnings list to Joanne Carner, with £167,000. In her three years on the tour, she has won eight tournaments. Miss Bradley, 32, also won four tournaments last year.

Nancy Lopez, 27, and her husband, Houston Astros baseball player Ray Knight, became parents on November 7 when their daughter Ashley Marie was born. Miss Lopez hasn't played in a tournament since withdrawing in the second round of the Peter Jackson classic at Montreal in July, but she still won two tournaments and £61,000 last season.

MOTOR RALLYING

Röhrl dominates speed tests to snatch lead

Monte Carlo, (AFP) – Walter Rhrl and Christian Geistdorfer, driving an Audi Quattro, took a serious option on winning the Monte Carlo Rally for the fourth time last night when they led home surviving crews from the gruelling 1,680 kilometre common-run, holding a 29 seconds advantage over Stig Blomqvist and Bjorn Cederbeg, their Swedish team-mates.

The West Germans, winners here in 1980 for Fiat, for Opel in 1982, for Lancia in 1983, set a searing place over the snow-swept trial stages in the Alps and only Blomqvist could keep pace.

Between them the two Audi drivers notched up all of the fastest times in the 16 special stages raced – Röhrl dominating eleven of them and Blomqvist the other five.

The Quattros, able to unleash their power and make the most of their four-wheel drive adhesion on the twisting snow-swept trial roads, underlined their domination of the opposition by placing their three works crews in the top three places in all but three of the special speed tests.

The West German firm, who enticed the Röhrl away from Lancia at the end of last year, must be delighted to see the potential return on that not inconsiderable investment.

Audi's overwhelming supremacy was completed by the third overall place held by Hannu Mikkola, of Finland, their reigning world champion and Arne Hertz, of Sweden. Mikkola took fewer risks than his team-mates and trailed the leaders by more than six and a half minutes. He remained eleven minutes clear of Audi's closest rival in a privately-entered Renault 5 turbo driven by Jean-Luc Therier and Michel Vial of France.

The jovial Therier revelled in the conditions and delighted the thousands of spectators with some spectacular drives.

The gloom in the Lancia camp was unrelenting. Their rally machines, purpose-built for drier conditions, were never able to match their opponents

Lancia's leading Finnish crew of Markku Alen and Illka Kivimaki produced some remarkable times as they tried to make up for some of the time lost after their crash on the Burzet run Tuesday night.

STANDINGS: 1, W Röhrl and C Geistdorfer (WG) Audi Quattro 5hr 42min 17sec; 2, S Blomquist and B Cederberg (Swe) Audi Quattro at 24sec; 3, H Mikkola (Fin) and A Hertz (Swe) Audi Quattro at 6min 58sec; 4, J-L Therier and M Vial (Fr) Renault 5 Turbo at 18:00; 5, B Saby and J-M Andrie (Fr) Renault 5 Turbo at 20:57; 6, A Bettega and M Perissinot (It) Lancia Rally at 24:30; 7, B Darniche and A Mahe (Fr) Audi Quattro 80 at 27:30; 8, J-C Andruet (Fr) and S Cresto (It) Lancia Rally at 33:15.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds agree to further sponsorship

By Keith Macklin

Leeds, winners of the John Player trophy earlier this month, are to continue their lucrative association with the brewers, McEwan Younger, for a further three years. The sponsorship, worth a minimum of £70,000, covers jersey advertising, social club provisions, programme advertising and the provision of player of the month awards throughout the Leeds teams.

Preparations are being made to ensure that Sunday's derby game against Wakefield Trinity goes ahead despite the snows. Joe Wareham, the Headingley general manager, said that the electric wiring under the pitch had been switched on, and by the weekend, if there were no more prodigious snowfalls, the ground should be ready for the Wakefield game. The south stand terracing will be cleared, and with grandstand and paddock facilities, a crowd of 16,000 can be accommodated, mostly under cover.

● Three London amateur teams will play at home in the first round of the amateur cup, the BARLA (British Amateur Rugby League Association) Whitbread trophy. London Colonials receive Clayton, Peckham Invicta entertain St Helens Boilermakers, and Ealing play Hudderfield St Joseph's.

The national administrator of BARLA, Maurice Oldroyd, said: "The southern league's playing standards have increased considerably in recent years, and they are optimistic of at least one club making the second round".

● Ronnie Duane, the Warrington centre, has been passed fit to take his place in the Great Britain side for the Test match against France in Avignon on Sunday. Duane has satisfied the coach, Frank Myler, that he has recovered from damaged knee ligaments.

● Ellery Hanley, the Bradford Northern half back, and Barrow scrum half David Cairns are the halfway leaders in the Greenhall Whitley Rugby League player of the year awards for the first and second divisions respecively.

BOBSLEIGH

Soviet four-man sledge is ruled out by jury

From Chris Moore, Igls

The Russians had their first big setback in the European bobsleigh championships here yesterday when the jury ruled that their new four-man sledge did not comply exactly with the regulations laid down by the sport's governing body, the Federation of International Bobsleigh and Tobogganning. The Russians have been told they must make two adjustments to the sledge if they want to use it at next month's Olympic Games in Sarajevo.

The have undertaken to try to complete the work before Saturday's four-man event here. But last night it was unclear whether, if that was not possible, they would still be allowed to use the sledge in this weekend's championship race.

The president of the jury here is the FIBT's technical adviser, Gion Caviezel, the former Swiss champion, who is also coach to the British Olympic team. Announcing the jury's ruling yesterday, he told me:

"Before every competition each sledge is measured to ensure that it conforms to the rules governing length and width. The new Russian sledge is not totally open at the back, as it stipulates in the rules. It is built up so that it comes halfway up the brakeman's back.

"It is not completely closed in, but neither is it completely open, and we had no alternative but to instruct the Russians that the height at the back must be reduced by 30 centimetres.

What was the Russian reaction to the jury's decision? "They were a bit surprised and not altogether happy about it", Caviezel said. "But they accepted the ruling". When approached, the Soviet team manager, Poland Upatnieks, commented: "The jury is being very precise".

The Soviet setback came less than 24 hours after an announcement from the FIBT president, Klaus Cotter, that standardization of sledges is on the cards after the Olympics

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: Beatrice Cartwright Cup (handicap): Final placings on three top courses (GB unless stated): 1, H Cheswright, 169.18; 2, J Sunley, 169.65; 3, J C Vincent, 170.00; 4, T Hill, 170.21; 5, B von Erbach (WG), 171.92; 6, W Shipton, 172.32.

NORDIC SKIING

ZWIESEL, West Germany: British men's championships: 15km cross-country: 1, Sgt M Good, 49min 41sec; 2, Capt T Potter, 52:23; 3, Lt C Winterton, 52:53. 20km biathlon: 1, Sgt M Good, 1hr 22min 34sec; 2, Gunner I A'Lee, 1:27:41; 3 Sapper S Thompson, 1:28:58. 15km junior biathlon: 1, Marine P Leat, 1:10:6; 2, Sapper S Clarkson, 1:17:40; 3, Pte T McCaulay, 1:19:57.

No room for romance in Scottish Cup

Wee Rangers are only in it for the money these days

The romanticist who believes the third round ties of the Scottich Cup will present the unfashionable clubs with their best chance for years of upsetting the high and mighty, is likely to be disappointed.

It may be true that opportunity knocks as seldom before, for the smaller clubs of the second division and the non-league survivors from Inverness, as they face up to their more renowned rivals in the premier and first divisions.

The 10 clubs who comprise the leading division have, astonishingly, avoided each other in the 16 ties, and the same number involving premier and second division teams, one could be forgiven for feeling a Bournemouth or a Walsall, the recent giant-killers of England, is sure to emerge.

In Scotland, however, the stately progress of the fashionable in the Scottish Cup is seldom jolted by an ur[illegible]. And, really, the little 'uns [illegible] more concerned with gold than [illegible]ry.

Even in Berwick, the home of the wee Rangers, who became Scotland's most celebrated cup heroes with the defeat of their mighty namesakes of Glasgow in 1967, it is the thought of what the invasion of visiting supporters will spend at the turnstiles that has brought the most joy in the purlieus of homely Shielfield Park.

"You have to be realistic these days," says the player-manager, Eric Tait, who, as a schoolboy danced with glee on the terracings on that never-to-be-forgotten day, when Berwick beat Rangers in perhaps the most dramatic cup upset of all time.

Now the overjoyed fan is the realistic force behind the club. "I did a wee jig when I heard we had drawn Celtic, of course," he said. "But that was because of the draw. You must be honest and think in financial terms first, and when a little club like ours gets into the third round draw along with the big boys, it is either Celtic or Rangers you're after. Celtic fans mean a healthy return at the turnstiles. This will be a godsend to us, especially after the let-down of our second round tie with Peterhead, about as far north as we in the south could travel, when our share of the gate was £262. That just about covered the cost of the team bus for the weekend."

The feeling persists that Berwick might be even happier with a draw and a replay at Parkhead, than a win. There would be a splendid crowd, and much-needed money to replenish the Shielfield coffers.

Certainly, this year's competition provides a rich harvest. For instance, the team which goes all the way to the final and takes the trophy will collect a total of £25,200.

These glittering prizes, however, may have assisted the erosion of surprise in the Scottish Cup. Money as signalled the end of what we used to call "typical cup-tie football".

Rough play is out in the Scottish Cup, because offenders are hard hit, with clubs losing 10 per cent of their cup bonus for every booking, and 20 per cent for every player ordered off.

Add to that, the fact that even the smallest club is so well drilled that it can match big brother in defensive strategy, and may feel that "getting a result" is much more satisfying than giving high and mighty opponents a bloddy nose, and it is safe bet that few of the leading clubs will on Saturday night be left with sinking feling, experienced by Manchester United and Arsenal.

St Mirren may be in danger at Meadowbank, as the home club have gained a reputation for achieving satisfying results against opposition thought to be vastly superior, and the luckless St Johnstone will have to fight fiercely against an Airdrie side which as been infected with the enthusiasm of their new manger, Ally MacLeod, again as boyant and optimistic as he was before the trauma of Argentina, but the class and determination mined in the premier division should see the visitors through.

Hugh Taylor

Cup matches in danger

The wintry conditions maycause a Scottish fixtur pile up. After two weeks of postponements, many of Saturday's cup ties now look certain to be off. To complicate matters further, the League Cup semi-final first leg matches between Aberdeen United and Rangers, are scheduled for next Wednesday.

With undersoil heating at only Ibrox Park, Easter Road and Habden Park, just two cup matches are certain to go ahead: Rangers v Dunfermline and Hiberian v East Fife.

IN BRIEF

World Cup men accused

Lyons (AFP) – Four French World Cup footballers appeared in court here yesterday accused of accepting illegal payments between 1977 and 1981 while playing for the first division club Saint Etienne.

Jean-Francois Larios, Bernard Lacombe, Christian Lopez and Gerard Janvion joined six former club directors or officials facing charges arising from the Saint Etienne "slush fund scandal", which could result in heavy fines or prison sentences of up to five years.

Two officials, former chairman Roger Rocher and his deputy Louis Arnaud, are in jail awaiting their trials.

European Footballer of the Year, Michel Platini, the former Saint Etienne player now with Juventus, was unable to attend court yesterday, but Judge Patrick Desmure said he still wanted to see him.

The four who did turn up were released on bail after brief hearings.

Another four former Saint Etienne players, Nogues, Farizon, Zimako and the Argentine, Piazza, are due in court today.

HANDBALL: EK '82, last year's British champions, have retained their Scottish league title with a 19–13 defeat of Glasgow University. The university side are almost certain of being runners-up.

TENNIS: Bjorn Borg, the five-times Wimbledon champion from Sweden who retired two years ago, announced yesterday that he will play a number of minor tournaments this year "for fun and for keeping in shape".

ATHLETICS: Cameron Sharp, Britain's No.2 sprinter, has pulled out of the indoor athletics international against East Germany at RAF Cosford next Wednesday, February 1.

He has had problems with his knees since a car accident after Christmas and has been advised by his doctors to rest. His place is taken by Errol Roofe of Epsom.

RUGBY: Ireland's home international against Scotland on March 3 will be sponsored by Digital Computers. This is the first time one of Ireland's home rugby internaionals has been sponsored and the Irish Rugby Football Union will recieive £30,000.

BOXING: Chris Pyatt, the promising 21-year-old Leicerter welterweight, will meet Cris Gilpin of Telford, a leading contender for the British title, over ten rounds on March 15. The bout is at Granby Hall, Leicester. Pyatt, a gold medallist at the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, is unbeaten after six professional contests.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated
FA TROPHY: First round replays: Blyth Spartans v Whitby; Horden CW v Gateshead; Fisher v Gloucester.
LONDON SENIOR CUP: First round: Barking v Barnet.
FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Chelsea v Brentford (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Territorial match (women): West v Midlands (at East Gloucester, 2.15).
BOXING: British light-heavyweight championship: Tom Collis v Dennis Andries (at Lyceum).
SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (at Wembley Conference Centre, 2.0 and 7.30).
SQUASH RACKETS: British under-23 championship (at Wembley Squash Centre, 6.30).
BADMINTON: International match: England v Scotland (at Bishopbriggs).
TABLE TENNIS: English open championships (at the Brighton Centre, 9.0 and 7.0).
RACKETS: Army championships (at Queen's Club, 9.0).
REAL TENNIS: Combined Services championships (at Queen's Club, 9.0).

HOCKEY

Bristol have an easy path to semi-final

Bristol became the first team to reach the semi-final of the Universities' Athletic Union championship yesterday by beating University College, London 4–0 at Crystal Palace (Sydney Friskin writes). The winners led 3–0 at half-time with goals by Carson (short corner), Allan and Wiltshire (penalty stroke), Elgar completing the tally in the second half.

Bristol will meet either Hull or Durham in the semi-finals, which are expected to be played on February 8. Hull's match against Durham was postponed yesterday because of bad weather; so, too, were the other quarter-finals: Nottingham v Manchester and Loughborough v Birmingham. The final has been fixed for February 29 at Birmingham.

SQUASH RACKETS

Tough tests for Britons

Jamie Hickox, the British under-23 closed champipon, and Christy Willstrop, the former British under-23 closed champion, face significant tests in the British under-23 open at Wembley today of their fitness and ability to convert domestic success into international achievement (Richard Eaton writes).

Hickox, a 19-year-old from Richmond whose creative talent is not in question bit whose temperament sometimes is, has a semi-final against the holder from Pakistan, Sohail Qaiser, a small, hard-hitting man good enough to beat England's No 3, Geoff Williams, in straight games in the Pakistan Open before Christmas.

Willstrop, a 20-year-old Yorkshireman whose doubt is in physical fitness, nevertheless had the opportunity to use yesterday's rest day to savour his best win of the season the day before in the quarter finals against the fourth seed from Sweden, Fredrik Johnsson. He may need that to bolster his confidence for an unappetizing encounter with Stuart Davenport, who has improved so much since Willstrop beat him 18 months ago that he is now world No 5, world open semi-finalist, and the firmest of favourites to regain the title he won two years ago.

Hickox harbours more realistic hopes against Qaiser.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

CALCUTTA: Nehru Gold Cup tournament: China 3, India 0; Poland 1, Romania 0. China v Poland in final.
KUALA LUMPUR: Inter-city tournament: Ankara 2, Swansea City 1; Tokyo 1, Rio de Janeiro 0.
OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCH: Italy 2, Netherlands 2.
UNIVERSITY MATCH: London 0, Cambridge 1.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Bristol Rovers 1, Southampton 5.

The following matches, due to be played yesterday, were postponed or cancelled because of bad weather:
SCOTTISH CUP: Second round, second replay: Stirling Albion v Arbroath (rearranged for next Monday).
ALLIANCE LEAGUE: Bob Lord Trophy: third round, first leg: Scarborough v Frickley.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Mossley v Worksop. Bass Cup, first round: second leg: Horwich v Morecambe.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Derby; Bolton v Manchester United; Sheffield United v Newcastle; Nottingham Forest v Liverpool; Sunderland v West Bromwich Albion. Second division: Barnsley v Manchester City; Port Vale v Rotherham.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Oxford United v Ipswich; Norwich v Arsenal; Millwall v Crystal Palace.
FA TROPHY: First round: Bishop Auckland v Grantham.
RUGBY UNION: Birkenhead Park v Army; Royal Navy v Cornwall.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Oxford University 12, Combined London OB 18.

TENNIS

TREVISO (Italy): Exhibition match: B Borg (Swe) bt A Panatta (It) 7-6, 6-4.
PITTSBURGH: Virginia Slims tournament, First round (US unless stated): S Acker bt Y Vermaak (SA) 6-4, 6-7,7-5; Fairbank (SA) bt J Harrington 6-4,7-5; M Mesker (Neth) bt N Yeargin 7-6,6-2; M Calleja (Fr) bt V Nelson 6-2, 6-0; K Steinmetz bt S Solomon 6-0, 6-2; P Paradis (Fr) bt S Chernava (USSR) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4; L Antonoplis bt A Brown (GB) 7-6, 6-3; N Herreman (Fr) bt H Ludloff 6-3, 6-2; K Jexell (Swe) bt A Fernandez 6-1, 6-4; E Sayers (Aus) bt B Mould (SA)6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEANS CUP WINNERS CUP: Quarter-final round, group B: Real Madrid 113, Pardubice (Cz) 82. Solent Stars 68, SIMAC Milan 78.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Winnipeg Jets 5, Quebec Nordiques 3; Detroit Red Wings 4, New York Islanders 0; Hartford Whalers 7, Montreal Canadiens 7; St Louis Blues 6, Toronto Maple Leafs 3.

CRICKET

JAIPUR: Women's one-day match: Australia 133-9, India 106. Australia won by 27 runs and lead 2-0 in four-match series.

CYCLING

STUTTGART: Six-day race: Final standings: 1, G Braun/G Frank (WG/Den), 148 pts; 2, H Scuetz/J Kristen (WG) 143; 3, A Fritz/R Hermann (WG/Liech), 84 (one lap behind).

RACING: BOTTOM WEIGHTS LIKELY TO BE ELIMINATED AT AINTREE

Schweppes possible switches stables

By Phil McLennan

Eastern Line, one of the most promising young hurdlers of two seasons ago, has changed stables from Mercy Rimell to David Nicholson and may now be aimed at the Schweppes Gold Trophy at Newbury on February 11. Mrs Rimell stated the six-year-old was an unlikely Schweppes runner when the weights were announced a fortnight ago but Nicholson is keen that the son of High Line should take his chance.

"The owner contacted me ten days ago and asked if I would take the horse," Nicholson said yesterday. "I shall run him in the Bishops Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham on Saturday and if he goes well there and appears well handicapped at Newbury, then we'll let him run."

Eastern Line, allotted 9st 5lb in the Schweppes, was unbeaten in four races in the 1981-82 season but did not run for 21 months after the last of those victories in April, 1982. He reappeared in a competitive handicap at Haydock early this month and although he finished last of nine, he ran well for a long way.

The Bishops Cleeve Hurdle is a conditions event over 2½ miles in which Nicholson also runs Goldspun. Peter Scudamore, the stable jockey, will ride Goldspun with Niall Madden on Eastern Line. Ironically, Gaye Chance, trained by Mrs Rimell, is a possible opponent for the two Nicholson horses. Gaye Chance has failed to live up to expectations over fences and was a disappointing fourth to The Mighty Mac, beaten 36 lengths, on his latest outing in the SGB Chase at Ascot in December.

Nicholson saddles Voice of Progress, one of the chasing discoveries of the season, in the Steel Plate and Sections Young Chasers qualifier. The six-year-old has won his four races over fences by a total of 67 lengths and several of the horses he has beaten, notably Duke of Milan, have gone on to win impressively themselves. On his latest run at Cheltenham three weeks ago, Voice of Progress beat First Glance by 25 lengths in a match and even that form was made to look good when First Glance won at Kempton on Saturday.

All being well, Voice of Progress is a definite runner at the Cheltenham Festival in March but Nicholson is undecided whether to run him in the Arkle Trophy over two miles or the Sun Alliance Chase over three. "The Sun Alliance is an exceptionally difficult race to win and so I'm bringing him back to two miles on Saturday to see how he fares. If it comes up heavy in March, the shorter race may just suit him better". The last three races won by Voice of Progress have all been over 2½ miles. Nicholson certainly has a strong hand in the novice chase department as he also has the highly-rated Gambir, himself unbeaten in two outings over fences.

Apart from having to adjust to the shorter trip, Voice of Progress could well face his toughest test to date on Saturday with B and K Emperor, Young Lover and Golden Friend among his possible rivals. Nicholson will also be strongly represented in the novice hurdle events with Rouspeter and Lucky Find in the Winchcombe Hurdle and Echo Sounder in the Haig Whisky qualifier.

● Great light has been reduced from 16-1 to 14-1 by Essal Bookmakers for the Schweppes Gold Trophy after laying a series of big bets including one of £15,000 to £900. Very Promising, second to Janus at Kempton on Saturday, has been well backed with Ladbrokes, who now offer 10-1.

First acceptors

SCHWEPPES GOLD TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE: Pinch Hitter 6yrs 11st 8lb, Robin Wonder 6-11-4, Amarach 8-11-3, Sula Bula 8-11-0, Cool Decision 7-11-0, Very Promising 6-11-0, Boreen Deas 5-10-13, Secret Ballot 10-10-10, Fredcoteri 8-10-10, Cima 6-10-10, Ra Nova 5-10-9, Admiral's Cup 6-10-9, Sis's Double 8-10-8, Street Angel 8-10-8, Boynesilde 6-10-8, Donegal Prince 8-10-6, Cardinal Flower 7-10-6, Desert Hero 10-10-6, Path Of Peace 8-10-6, Great Light 6-10-5, Stans Pride 7-10-4, Noble Hair 9-10-4, Holemoor Star 7-10-4, Capitano 7-10-4, Janus 6-10-2, Buckbe 5-9-13, Rushmoor 6-9-13, Batista 8-9-13, Alastor O Mavros 5-9-11, The Foodbroker 8-9-11, Lulav 6-9-11, Benian 5-9-11, Jungle Jim 6-9-11, Avondale Princess 6-9-11, Stand Easy 7-9-10, Original Step 9-9-9, Hill's Guard 5-9-8, Silver Wind 5-9-6, Whole Shebang 5-9-6, Patrick's Fair 8-9-6, Prince Bless 8-9-5, Parmabos 5-9-5, Eastern Line 6-9-5, Hopeful Shot 7-9-4, Cocaine 6-9-3, Full Measure 8-9-3, Vivque 5-9-3, Numerate 5-9-2, Berlin 5-9-1, Mr Sunbird 6-9-0, Mac Kelly 10-9-0, Ishkomann 5-9-0, Mulata 5-9-0, Jade And Diamond 6-8-13, Rufus T Firefly 6-8-13, Men In The Middle 8-8-10, Mossy Moore 8-8-9, Return To Power 5-8-6, The Irish Rhine 6-8-6, Vodkatini 5-8-1, Mac's Gift 4-8-0, Ridgefield 6-7-13, Readmace 6-7-13, Devisdale 5-7-6. To be run at Newbury, February 11.

Record Grand National entry may mean ballot

A Grand National ballot looks likely for the first time following yesterday's news of a record entry of 141 for this year's race, sponsored by Seagrams, at Aintree on March 31. New conditions qualify horses who have won a chase anywhere in the world since the end of the 1980-81 season, although the former French-trained horse, Jivago De Neuvy, is the only foreign contender.

The previous requirement was for a horse to have won a chase valued at £3,500 or more. The new rules also include the reduction of the safety limit from 50 to 40 runners. A ballot, if required, would operate from the bottom of the handicap, making it unlikely that any of the leading challengers would be affected.

Jenny Pitman is delighted with the progress of Corbiere, last year's winner, who ran his heart out under a big weight against Last Suspect at Chepstow on Tuesday. She said: "He's in great form considering I was unable to get a gallop into him all last week when we were frozen." Her other national hope is Bueche Giorod, who will be ridden in all his preparatory races by her son Mark, who is the stable's amateur. "Mark will hunt and point-to-point him before Liverpool," she said.

Up in Leicestershire, Grittar, the 1982 winner, is confined to roadwork as the gallops are covered in snow. Frank Gilman was delighted with Grittar's recent seasonal bow at Nottingham and hopes to get another four races into him before the big day. Nicky Henderson's four entries include Spartan Missile, runner-up to Aldaniti in 1981 and a faller at Becher's second time round last year.

However, Henderson has no plans at the moment to train Spartan Missile for the National. "Originally he wasn't even going to be entered for the race but then I discovered that, because he had won the Betterton Chase at Newbury, he was not eligible to run in the Liverpool Foxhunters, and there was very little else to go for," Henderson said.

"He is two to three weeks away from running in a hunter chase. If we have a few hunter chase wins under out belts before Aintree, and he's in good form, then we might – and it's an enormous might – have a change of heart."

Only three years after partnering Aldaniti to victory, Bob Champion now has a realistic winning chance of winning the race as a trainer with King Spruce, the mount of Joy Carrier. Champion is certainly optimistic about his horse's prospects. "I promise you that if he jumps, he'll have a great chance," Champion said.

Toby Balding, who sent out *Highland Wedding to win in* 1969, believes he has a suitable replacement in Lucky Vane, whose jumping was considered too unreliable to go for the race last year. Since teaming up with John Burke, however, Lucky Vane's jumping has shown a marked improvement. Michael Dickinson, who withdrew Ashley House *at the overnight stage* last year, has four entries – Ashley House, Carl's Wager, Cavity Hunter and Prince Rowan. The obvious contender at this early stage is Ashley House.

Other interesting entries include Midnight Love, trained by Denys Smith who was responsible for Red Alligator in 1968; Cockle Strand and Three To One who fought out a thrilling finish to the Scottish *National two years ago; Canton*, the 1983 Scottish National winner, with whom Neville Crump will be trying to win a fourth National; and Eliogarty, one of 24 Irish entries and the easy winner of the Christies *Foxhunters at the Cheltenham* Festival last season.

● Corals make Ashley House and Corbiere 14-1 joint favourites for the Grand National. Other prices; 16-1 Greasepaint, 20-1 Bonum Omen, Grittar, 25-1 bar.

Outlook bleak

There will be no racing in Britain today for the second day running and prospects for the rest of the week are not bright. Huntingdon was called off yesterday morning because of frost and snow and Taunton's meeting was abandoned yesterday afternoon because the course is waterlogged. The meeting at Fairyhouse in Ireland, held over from yesterday to today, is subject to a 7am inspection.

Tomorrow's meeting at Doncaster hinges on an 8am inspection today. There is still snow on the course and further falls were forecast last night. Tomorrow's other meeting at Ayr was abandoned yesterday and there will be a 4.30 inspection this afternoon regarding prospects for Saturday. The one realistic hope is Saturday's meeting at Cheltenham where frost appears the only worry.



A new form of protection (above) has been devised for National Hunt jockeys (Christopher Goulding writes). The garment, which weighs about 1½lbs, is made up from a strong shirt which has the collar and sleeves removed. Sections of foam are sewn on the front and back, and on the shirt tail, so that the base of the spine and kidneys, which often catch the stray hoof when a jockey is floored, are protected. Jockeys fall, on average, about one ride in ten. (Photograph: Eddie Byrne)

Aintree entries

SEAGRAM GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE: Abiata 12 years, Ambremont 11, Animahron 11, Another Captain 12, Antic 9, Applojo 8, Ashley House 10, Ballygore 8, Barrysville 8, Beech King 10, Bellingham 8, Blazing Wind 8, Bobtree 8, Bonum Omen 10, Brass O Tully 9, Brave Jack 8, Bush Guide 8, Button Boy 11, Canford Ginger 9, Canton 10, Captain Parkhill 11, Carls Wager 9, Cavity Hunter 11, Chingolo 10, Clonthturtin 10, Cockle Strand 11, Cold Spell 12, Colonel Christy 9, Corbiere 9, Dawn Fox 11, Distemper 10, Dont Forget 10, Door Step 8, Doubleuagain 10, Durham Lad 11, Earthstopper 10, Eliogarty 9, Fauloon 9, Felicitys Pet 10, Fethard Friend 9, Flamenco Dancer 10, Flash Harry 11, Fortina's Express 10, Fortune Seeker 9, Foxbury 10, French Bob 10, Gayle Warning 10, Golden Trix 9, Greasepaint 9, Greenhill Hall 8, Greenways 9, Grey Fusilier 9, Grittar 11, Hallo Dandy 10, Hankis 8, Hazy Dawn 9, High Diver 11, Hill Of Slane 8, Hot Tomato 12, Hy-Ko 8, Imperial Black 8, Jacko 12, Jivago De Neuvy 9, Jocks Bond 10, Jo Colombo 9, Keengaddy 11, King Spruce 10, Knight Of Love 9, Knockawad 7, Kumbi 9, Laskon 9, Last Argument 10, Loving Words 11, Lucky Call 10, Lucky Rew 9, Lucky Vane 9, Macks Garage 9, Magic Tipp 11, Menford 9, Mid Day Gun 10, Midnight Love 9, Milan Major 12, Money For Jam 11, Monty Python 12, Mr Oryx 11, Mr Snugfit 7, Mullacurry 12, My Buck 12, Never Tamper 9, No Lemon 9, Oakprime 9, Ostley Pride 9, O'er The Border 10, Old Society 10, Our Cloud 8, Parklands 9, Peaty Sandy 10, Pilot Officer 9, Poyntz Pass 9, Priest's Rock 9, Prince Rowan 8, Ramrajya 11, Ram The Thor 9, Red Cleric 10, Regent's Garden 12, Rhainray 9, Roman General 11, Romany Count 12, Royal Appointment 9, Saint Fillans 10, Saint Taffy 8, Sea Captain 10, Secretary General 9, Silent Valley 11, Solihull Sport 10, Spartan Missile 12, Spartan Prince 10 Tacroy 10, Tania's Lad 10, The Drunken Duck 11, Three To One 13, Tiepolino 12, Tilthammer Mill 10, Tom Miller 7, Two Swallows 11, Wells Fargo 12, Whistling Senator 8, Who's Free 9, Why Forget 8, Will Boreen 10, Williamson 10, Woodlands Lad 9, Wremendo 10, Yalu 11, Yer Man 9, Young Driver 7, 400 Nocte 9. To be run at Liverpool, March 31.

Williams to attempt an unusual double

John Williams, the talented Welsh jockey hopes to ride in both the Lincoln and the Grand National in March. Few jockeys have ridden *both legs of the spring double in the* same year but Williams intends to parner Macmillion at Doncaster on March 24 and Never Tamper at Aintree a week later.

Dave Dick won both races, on Gloaming and E.S.B., but those victories were separated by 15 years. Stan *Mellor*, who has ridden more jumping winners than anyone, rode in the Grand National and a Flat sprint on the same day but was never able to match up a *Lincoln* ride and a Grand National mount in the same year.

David Nicholson, the Stow-on-the-Wold trainer, said: "I should think that Davey (D. L.) Jones rode in both races in the same year. I certainly remember him riding in the Grand National, over hurdles and on the Flat all on the same day". Davey's son, Buck Jones, the Guildford trainer, said: "I can't be sure but It hink it's very likely that father rode in both races – he did just about everything else."

Williams's Lincoln ride is not without hope as Macmillion undoubtedly has ability. He had smart form as a young horse and ran in the 2000 Guineas. John is delighted with the weight of 8st 5lb and said: "I will do that all right. Macmillion must have a chance because he had 10 stone in the race last year and showed good speed".

Macmillion's enthusiasm has been questioned in the past but the horse has had problems and Barbara Waring, his trainer, is confident they are now sorted out. He is a spring horse and will lack nothing in *fitness* as he was *impressive* over hurdles at Worcester recently with Williams in the saddle. They will be in action again at Windsor next Wednesday.

Never Tamper, from John Baker's West Country stable, was a 500-1 chance when he jumped 26 of the 30 fences before refusing at Aintree last year. He started this season with three wins in 12 days in West Country handicaps and although there must be a possibility that, with the big entry, he could be among the low weights eliminated, *Williams said: "I think he will* squeeze in all right".



Williams: Hoping to ride in both legs of the spring double

Fairyhouse

GOING: good (7am inspection)

Tote: double 3.15, 4.15. Jackpot: 2.45, 3.15, 3.45, 4.15.

1.45 FAIRYHOUSE EBF HURDLE (maiden: mares: £650: 2m 2f) (22 runners)

1	030	CIRCLES J Welch 5-11-10	Mr A Weld 7
2		FELICITY LOT G Quirk 5-11-10	M Cummings
3	040	FRENCH AUBURN F Ennis 5-11-10	D McConnell 7
4	0	PUNTERS GOLD T McCourt 5-11-10	T J McCourt 3
5	F00	QUAYSIDE CHARM M Scott 5-11-10	Mr M Scott 7
6	000	RULE THE WAVES J Fowler 5-11-10	Mr P Larkin 5
7	400	LATE CHALLENGE T McIlhagga 6-11-6	–
8	00	SUMMERELLO D McDonogh 6-11-6	H Rogers 5
9	0	THAT'S SHOW BIZ J Cox 6-11-6	M Macken 5
10	0	VILLAWOOD S Shields 6-11-6	T A Quinn
11	0/0	BATTLECRY LADY T O'Brien 5-11-2	S Lynch
12	0	CASTLES ROSE T O'Brien 5-11-2	P Kiely
13	040	GOLD FOR EVER Ms C Purcell 5-11-2	Mr P Fenton 7
14	0/30	PARSFIELD W Treacy 5-11-2	F Berry
15	B	POLLY'S GRIND W Harney 5-11-2	T Morgan
16		SAINTLY CHOICE J Maxwell 5-11-2	Mr H Cirk 7
17	00F	SMALL RUN T Carberry 5-11-2	T McGivern
18		CREGGANA J Harty 4-10-9	–
19		MANDY'S GLEN J Harty 4-10-9	Mr G Stack 7
20		NIGHT DREAMER J O'Shea 4-10-9	W Glynn 3
21	0	SHINE YOUR LIGHT J Bolger 4-10-9	B Nolan
22	F20	WELSH TAN N Meade 4-10-9	P Leech

9-4 Parsfield, 100-30 Punters Gold, 6 Welsh Tan, 8 Rule The Waves, 10 Quayside Charm, 12 Circles, 14 French Auburn, 16 Gold For Ever, That s Show Biz, 20 others.

2.15 TEAL HURDLE (Handicap: £580: 2m 2f) (17)

1	000	VENETIAN GATE J Kennedy 9-11-9	S Treacy
2	R11	GALALITH F Ennis 5-10-12	Mr D McGoona 7
3	024	TRINITY BUG J Bryce-Smith 5-10-11	Mr A Weld 7
4	000	FIVE STARS FINAL S Shields 8-10-7	T Quinn
5	100	TELL US ANOTHER D Hughes 5-10-7	T Morgan
6	2	HOLD THE HEAD J Bolger 4-10-5	B Nolan
7	001	FORETOLD M O'Toole 6-10-4	J Campbell 7
8	21P	TOP PAC J Roe 6-10-4	M Mulligan 3
9	040	LITTLE MILLS J Cox 5-10-3	Mr J Shortt 5
10	003	MAYANNCOR T Casey 6-10-3	A O'Brien
11	340	DOLESOLE T Carberry 6-10-0	P Gill
12	20P	PHILEAS O Finnegan 5-10-0	T McCourt 3
13	440	ASHTON BLAKE P Whyte 5-9-8	H Rogers
14	003	DAVYS RUN F Oakes 6-9-7	J K Kinane
15	50F	GARRS CHOICE P McCreery 6-9-7	T Ryan
16	0/13	LOCHSOLLISH G Quirk 9-9-7	P Leech
17	B00	LADY P Carey 5-9-7	J Quinn

7-2 Galalith, 4 Hold The Head, 5 Trinity Bug, 13-2 Tell Us Another, 10 Foretold, 12 Mayanncor, Phileas, 14 Garrs Choice, Lochsollish, 16 Dolesole, Davys Run, 20 others.

2.45 EIDER CHASE (novices: £685:2m 2f) (12)

1	of3	ALLANSHINE P McCreery 8-12-0	B Sheridan
2	42u	MORNING BREAKS J Cox 7-12-0	Mr E Bolger
3	400	TELE-JECTOR M O'Toole 6-12-0	Tyrrell 3
4	00	CRAFTY KING D Harvey 7-11-9	–
5	22f	DUNKIRK M O'Toole 8-11-9	A Powell
6	00	HIGH CLOVER J Fowler 8-11-9	M Lynch
7	212	HOWART HIGHWAY A McLoughlin 8-11-9	R O'Donavan
8	041	LARRY LATEST Miss A Collen 7-11-9	K Morgan
9	00	POTTLEBAY P Casserly 8-11-9	T J Ryan
10	p0f	STEEL KNIGHT M McKenna 8-11-9	M Mulligan 3
11	f00	TEACH BAWN S Shields 8-11-9	T Quinn
12	v0f	WELSHMANS BUTTON T O'Neill 9-11-9	T O'Neill 3

2 Morning Breaks 7-2 Allanshine 11-2 Howart Highway 7 Dunkirk 10 High Clover 12 Tele-Jector 16 others.

3.15 WIDGEON CHASE (handicap: £3,000: 3m) (14)

1	24/p	ROYAL DIPPER J Fowler 9-12-1	Mr J Fowler
2	380/	GAY RETURN T Casey 9-11-10	T Ryan
3	100	DOUBLEUAGAIN A Geraghty 10-11-7	T Morgan
4	1p0	SICILIAN ANSWER J Cox 7-11-5	A Powell
5	002	BEECH KING P Woods 10-11-0	M Sleator
6	2f0	DOUBTFUL VENTURE P Mullins 8-11-0	P Kavanagh
7	000	SILENT MEMBER P Hughes 9-10-12	T Carmody
8	f01	BLACKRATH PRINCE F Flood 8-10-11	F Berry
9	010	FORTUNE SEEKER J Cox 9-10-11	M Macken 5
10	000	DAWSON PRINCE W Rooney 8-10-7	Mrs R Stewart
11	f14	SMARTSIDE E Harty 9-10-5	Mr J Shortt 5
12	430	BENTOM BOY W Rooney 9-10-3	Mrs A Ferris
13	030	FOOT STICK P Mullins 8-10-2	P Leech
14	110/	LITTLE LARRY J Cromwell 8-10-0	–

4 Sicilian Answer, 9-2 Beech King, 5 Blackrath Prince, 8 Fortune Seeker, 9 Smartside, Doubleuagain, 12 Doubtful Venture, 14 Bentom Boy, 20 others.

3.45 PINTAIL CHASE (handicap: £1,700: 2m 4f) (14)

1	000	WILL BOREEN W Durkan 10-11-3	S Treacy
2	000	CREIG A 'BHAINEE D McDonagh 7-11-8	H Rogers (3)
3	bp/0	SMILING SAM W Rook 8-11-7	–
4	400/	DOWNSHIRE BOY D Hughes 8-11-5	T Morgan
5	04f	KAL NA MAR F Flood 8-10-13	F Berry
6	041	PRINCE BLONG J Draeper 7-10-13	T Ryan
7	211	TRINITY AIR J O'Keefe 7-10-13	B Sheridan
8	f-00	DUKE OF ALVA L Woods 8-10-12	T Finn
9	u23	VIRGINIA ROAD P Mooey 8-10-12	M Cummins
10	f1f	BALLYDYRE Kirk 9-10-9	G McGlinchey 3
11	00p	ROSS BROTHER J R Cox 7-10-9	M Macken 5
12	p43	EXCURSION G Stewart 8-10-8	T McGivern
13	000	NEWTOWN BOY M Cunningham 7-10-1	J Brady
14	0v	PADDY BEAG J Cullen 8-10-1	–

9-4 Trinity Air, 4 Downshire Boy, 5 Prince Blong, 7 Excursion, 10 Smiling Sam, 12 Ballydyre, Will Boreen, 16 others.

4.15 MERGANSER NATIONAL HUNT (flat: amateurs: £1,500: 2m) (21)

1	021	ARARUN P Mullins 5-12-6	T Mullins 5
2	001	BALLYWHO PATRICK O'Leary 5-12-6	B Bunyan 7
3	01	GEMMAS FRIDGE B Malone 5-12-6	C Magner
4	000	MR FREDERICK J Costeloe 5-12-6	–
5		ATIN M Kiernan 5-11-10	Mr M Kiernan 7
6	0	BALLINTRY BOY E O'Connell 5-11-10	F Codd
7		CARNDUFF LADY O Finnegan 5-11-10	–
8	00	COOLGRENA S Shields 5-11-10	T Stronge 7
9	000	DEEP DE LEMA F Flood 5-11-10	M Phelan 5
10	03u	ENCHINI J Cox 5-11-10	J Shortt 5
11	0	FINE WHIP T Carberry 5-11-10	A Martin 3
12		GREENWAYS BOY J Maxwell 5-11-10	P Finn
13		HELENS WARRIOR J Smith 5-11-10	P Larkin 5
14	0	INDIAN PONY N Henley 5-11-10	N Henley
15		KNOCKEEVAN GIRL P Carey 5-11-10	P Carey 7
16	4	OFFICIAL ENOUGH T Carberry 5-11-10	M White 7
17	00	POUND BRAE J Maxwell 5-11-0	H Kirk 7
18		SARACENS ANVIL P Quinlan 5-11-10	J Queally
19		SILENT PLEASE W Rooney 5-11-10	Mrs A Ferris
20	000	YOUNG BLOOD S Kirk 5-11-10	–
21	0	AUBANE T Carberry 4-11-0	R Jennings 3

5-2 Ararun, 7-2 Ballywho Patrick, 6 Aubane, 13-2 Enchini, 8 Gemmas Fridge, 10 Ballintry Boy, 12 Mr Frederick, 16 Official Enough, Greenways Boy, 20 others.

Fairyhouse selections

By Our Irish Correspondent

1.45 Parsfield. 2.15 Galalith. 2.45 Morning Breaks. 3.15 Beech King. 3.45 Trinity Air. 4.15 Ararun.

RUGBY UNION

Clubs could welcome cancellation of games

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

The weather seems *likely* to frustrate a number of third round John Player Cup ties on Saturday and, as a consequence, a number of England players hoping to use those games as a proving ground. Wheeler, England's hooker, for instance, has played only one junior game since leading England to victory over New Zealand on November 19, and though he is happy with his *general level of* fitness, a hard cup game would have eradicated any doubts.

Unfortunately, Leicester's tie at *Coventry is in* doubt. The *Coundon* Road pitch is covered in snow and a decision will be made at midday tomorrow. If the game cannot be *played it may* be welcomed by both clubs who have extensive injury lists: Youngs is out of Leicester's side with a groin strain, while *Coventry too* are *without* their scrum half, Thomas. His deputy is Lander, but if there is a postponment he, too, will be missing *because he is due to take up* an appointment in Devon after nine years with Coventry.

Colclough, the England lock who missed *squad* training at *Bisham* Abbey last weekend, is available for Wasps this weekend, but they are due to play at Gosforth, who *anticipate moving four inches of* snow of their pitch with a snowplough. If the game is not played, Wasps will look at the possibity of fixing up a game on their own ground.

O'Driscoll, the Ireland flanker, who was the subject of unwelcome attention by Garuet, the French prop, during the international in Paris last Saturday, returns to the London Irish side to play Bedford, one of the cup games far enough south to escape the worst of the weather. Bristol, too, is far from snowbound, but they are due to play at Norwich who have nine inches of snow on their pitch but are understandably keen not to disappoint their local support by switching the game.

David Loveridge, the New Zealand scrum half, who visits Britain next month to receive the Rugby Writers' Club award as personality of the year, is to hold a coaching clinic at Gloucester on February 13.

Unfortunately, the clinic clashes with a proposed England training evening at Stourbridge, which would exclude Youngs and Hill, of Bath, who will spend an anxious few days while Youngs's injury clears up wondering whether he may be catapulted to an England cap in his first season of senior rugby.

Should Youngs be forced to withdraw from the Calcutta Cup match on February 4, he will join two other injured scrum halves on the sidelines, Smith (Sale) and Melville (Wasps), whose cartilage operation is expected to take place next week.

The Scotland-England game will be refereed by David Burnett (Ireland) and not, as originally stated, by René Hourquet, of France. Hourquet will take charge of England's game with Ireland on February 18.



Loveridge: taking a clinical look at the game

Exeter's dreams fade again

By David Hands

Exeter University, who have dominated the Universities Athletic Union (UAU) competition over the last five years, contesting four finals without winning the trophy, were beaten yesterday in the quarter-finals of this season's event. Finalists last year when they drew with Durham only to lose the game on tries scored, Exeter lost 6-3 at home to Nottingham University.

Despite the loss of 10 members of last year's side – including Hill at scrum half who has chosen to play club rugby with Bath and Sole, the Anglo-Scots prop who was injured – Exeter have enjoyed a successful season but lost to a side who played better on the day.

Osborne, the Exeter full back, gave his side the lead with a penalty, but that was cancelled by Friend, the visiting stand-off half, who kicked a penalty just before half-time and a second shortly before the end. Nottingham played well at the lineout and now face a semi-final game with Swansea on February 8, at a neutral ground

Swansea cruised to a comfortable 47-0 win over UMIST, who must have wondered whether it was worth fighting their way down from the frozen north.

The incisive running from Thomas, the centre, who has played for the Swansea club side, and the alertness of Horner, the full back, who joined his line at every opportunity, earned each of them three tries. The other tries came from Driver on the left wing and from Picton, a flanker who left the field near the end with a dislocated shoulder.

CRICKET

Lynch sixes in West Indian spree

Kimberley (Agencies) – The unofficial West Indian team beat Griqualand West by 123 runs in a 50-over match yesterday. They scored 316 for nine wickets and bowled out the opposition for 193 in 47.1 overs.

The acting West Indian captain, Albert Padmore, won the toss and chose to bat first. The regular captain, Lawrence Rowe, as well as, Sylvester Clarke, Alvin Kallicharran, Collis King, David Murray and Hartley Alleyne, were rested

The West Indians were 237 for four at lunch after 40 overs. Their eventual top scorers were Everton Mattis, with 84, and the Surrey player, Monte Lynch, with 73, including five sixes in only 50 balls. Two wickets were down for 52 but thereafter the West Indians sored freely.

Griqualand West, when their turn came, were well behind the clock at tea in pursuit of their target, having reached 81 for four, with only 27 overs left. Neville Wright and Mike Doherty put on 45 for the first wicket before the West Indian team manager, Gregory Armstrong, had Wright caught behind the wicket for 20. The off spin bowler, Derick Parry, then claimed two wickets in one over, those of Docherty and Kenny Dugmore, and Wayne Schonegaval was run out just before tea.

SCORES: West Indians, 316 for 9 (E H Mattis 84, M A Lynch 73; Mc Laren 4 for 39, A Beukes 2 for 65); Griqualand West, 193.

Other cricket, page 20

GOLF

Ballesteros back for more

Casino beach, South Africa, (Reuter) – Spain's Severiano Ballesteros, the U.S. Masters champion, tees off in the Wild Coast Classic here today with fond memories of his last appearance in South Africa. The Sapniard collected £212,000 last December for *winning* the Sun City million dollar challenge.

The rewards for success on this brand new 6,940 yard course will be *far smaller*, with *only £13,500 going* to the winner.

Cotton dinner at The Belfry

Henry Cotton celebrates his seventy-seventh birthday today, (Mitchell Platts writes). It is now 50 years since he won the first of his three Open championships, and the Professional Golfers Association are to honour this anniversary with a celebration dinner.

Among the guests at the dinner, to be held at The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield on July 12, will be officers of the Royal and Ancient, of which Cotton is an honorary member, the PGA and Royal St George's.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to Resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Avoriaz	200	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	−4
Fresh powder on hard base							
Crans Montana	90	150	Good	Powder	Good	Sun	+2
Limited runs – avalanche danger							
Davos	120	220	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	−8
Upper runs closed (too much snow)							
Flaine	165	230	Good	Powder	Good	Sun	−6
Beautiful conditions							
Gstaad	80	150	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	−1
Powder on hard base							
Ischgl	60	170	Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	−6
New snow on good base							
Kitzbuhel	30	130	Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	0C
Snow good, visibility poor							
Les Arcs	170	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	−5
Powder on good base							
Saas Fee	50	110	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	−5
New snow on good base							
Salze d'Oulx	40	70	Good	Powder	Fair	Fine	+1
New snow on good base							
Seefeld	85	125	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	−3
Poor visibility							
Selva	40	70	Fair	Powder	Fair		−4
New snow on icy base							
St Moritz	45	60	Good	Powder	Fair	Cloud	−8
New snow on hard base							
Verbier	100	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fair	−4
Avalanche danger extreme							
Villars	80	130	Good	Powder	Good	Fair	+2
Wonderful skiing							
Wengen	55	135	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	−4
Ideal skiing conditions							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following report *has been received from* a tourist board:

NORWAY

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Finse	200	–	good	–	-27
Geilo	80	–	good	–	-25
Gol	50	–	good	–	-33
Lillehammer	70	–	good	–	-20
Norefjell	40	–	good	–	-14
Oslo	50	–	good	–	-20
Voss	100	–	good	–	-12
Rjukan	60	–	good	–	-18

ITALY

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of	Weather	
Abetone	80	160	–	–	–
Bardonecchia	45	90	–	–	–
Bormio	30	90	–	–	–
Canazei	45	120	–	–	–
Cervinia	100	170	–	–	–
Claviere	50	100	–	–	–
Cortina	60	80	–	–	–
Courmayeur	80	160	–	–	–
Livigno	45	70	–	–	–
Macugnaga	.0	60	–	–	–
Madesimo	60	110	–	–	–
Madonna di C.	80	130	–	–	–
Ortisei	15	35	–	–	–
San Martino	65	65	–	–	–
Selva	15	80	–	–	–

AUSTRIA

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Alpbach	35	95	–	–	−6
Axamer Lizum	–	85	–	–	−7
Badgastein	30	135	–	–	−5
Berwang	75	95	–	–	−10
Brand	50	150	–	–	−4
Igls	5	60	–	–	−11
Kaprun	40	165	–	–	−9
Lech-Zürs/Arlberg	115	210	–	–	−3
Lermoos	60	180	–	–	−4
Lienz/Osttirol	25	80	–	–	−7
Seefeld	85	125	–	–	−5

SCOTTISH: Cairngorm: Upper and middle runs, and lower slopes: complete, wide cover of hard-packed snow, vertical runs: 1600ft. Hill and main roads: slight snow. Snow level: 1000ft. Glenshee: Upper runs: complete, hard-packed snow on a firm base. Lower slopes: ample nursery areas, hard-packed snow on a firm base. Vertical runs: 1000ft. Hill roads: blocked. Main roads: slight snow. Snow level: 2000ft. Glencoe: Upper runs and lower slopes: complete, wide snow cover. New snow with deep drifts. Vertical runs: 2400ft. Hill and main roads: blocked. Snow level: 1200ft. Lecht: No reports. All roads blocked.

EQUESTRIANISM

Furniture company calls halt to sale

An American move to acquire a potential Olympic medal-winning horse from Britain has been halted by a *sponsorship* deal, worth more than £70,000. Robert Lemieux, a three-day event rider, from Frensham, Surrey, was on the point of selling the Gamesmaster, an eight-year-old gelding, to an American rider planning to compete in the Los Angles Olympic Games.

The Manchester-based furniture firm, Boardmans intervened, and now Lemieux has been guaranteed the £40,000 he would have received from the sale, plus one year's expenses for the house and a second string called Coronet.

Lemieux, son of High Court judge, is pinning his hopes on gaining selection to the British Olympic squad, with a good *performance* at the Badminton horse trials in April." I hope I can repay the faith my sponsors have put in me, by doing well enough to get on *the the Olympic* short list", he said. "Obviously, the Americans think the horse has enough ability to get into their team, and I hope I can show how good he really is".

Last season, in his first year in advanced classes, The Gamesmaster was placed fifth at Brigstick, first at Rushall, and first at Bramham.

TABLE TENNIS

All change as Popova pops over

By a Special Correspondent.

Valentina Popova, the 1980 European champion, embarrassed the organizers of the Norwich Union English Open Championships by making a surprise journey from Moscow for the biennial event that begins at the Brighton Centre today.

Problems of communication with the Russians have not been unknown in the past but they usually concern doubt about expected arrivals. This *time the English Open finds itself in* the absurd situation of having the player who has arguably the best chance of winning the competition *on the premises but not in the draw*.

The most obvious solution would be to slot Miss Popova into the top-seeded position coincidentally vacated last week by the withdrawal through injury of the European champion, Bettine Vriesekoop. The problem here is in avoiding acrimony from the Dutch, who were expecting another of their players to take her place.

All this is of significance for England's champion, Karen Witt, having her best season despite a persistent back injury and seeded *fifth in the top quarter*. Miss Witt saw a specialist last week after which she pronounced herself "70 per cent unlikely to play". But she was on her way to Brighton yesterday and the inclusion of the Russians would prove an unexpected obstacle to her reaching a semi-final against Yoshiko Shimanchi, of Japan, who won the Cleveland Open on Sunday.

Meanwhile the atmosphere of absurdity has been heightened through Carl Prean's refusal to play in the event because of the use of the new-style plastic balls. His announcement came too late for the posters advertising the tournament to be altered, and now dozens of giant images of the absent 16-year-old loom over the proceedings like some strangely proliferating ghost.

CRICKET: WILLIS AND BOTHAM STAND DOWN

Gower takes on captaincy for game with Otago

From Derek Hodgson, Dunedin

It was confirmed on arrival here yesterday that Ian Botham will not be playing in the three-day match against Otago starting tomorrow, although his Test match injury has complicated what was originally granted as a straight forward leave of absence.

Botham and Willis, his captain, are both standing down. As Botham is having treatment on a pulled hamstring and a swollen tendon behind the left knee, he would not have been fit to play anyway, although Bernard Thomas, England's physiotherapist is satisfied that the all-rounder will be ready for the second Test match starting in Christchurch tomorrow week.

As to a cartilage operation, to which I referred yesterday, Mr Thomas is also hoping that Botham will avoid that, although he concedes that the strain placed on 28-year-old knees that are playing cricket and soccer each and every year always make it a possibility. It is the twisting and turning of the knee joints that make soccer players so vulnerable. "Eventually," I was told, "Ian will need a cartilage taking out".

The England party did not need the proximity of Burns Night to be reminded that they were in the Scotland of the South Seas: green hills, distant mountains, the Robbie Burns liquor store and a sudden rise in taxi-cab fares. But here, as in Scotland, hospitality abounds.

Foster and Randall also seem likely to be rested which means that Gower will lead a team reading: Tavare, Smith, Fowler, Gower, Lamb, Gatting, Marks, Dilley, Taylor, Cook and Cowans.

Otago are having their Carisbrook ground relaid so this match is to be played on the University Oval where the pitch is as much a mystery as that of the recently vacated Basin Reserve. Otago's best known players are W K Lees, the wicket-keeper and captain, and S L Boock, the left-arm spin bowler.

A challenger to Martin Crowe's place as New Zealand's second youngest test century-maker has arisen in J W Guy, currently a selector. Guy was 21 and two months when he scored 102 against India in Hyderabad in 1955. Martin is 21 years four months. H G Vivian, 19 years 121 days, who scored 100 against South Africa in 1932, remains the youngest.

Hadlee delivers another bouncer

Wellington (Reuter) – Richard Hadlee, the New Zealand player at the centre of the controversy over bouncers during the first Test, said yesterday that it was a case of "an eye for an eye".

Hadlee, who was criticized by Geoff Howarth, the New Zealand captain, for bowling too many, said in a newspaper article: "Newcomer Neil Foster, playing in just his second Test, opened hostilities by peppering me with legside bouncers in New Zealand's first innings. Naturally enough I returned the compliment," Hadlee said.

He also sent down a couple to Bob Willis, justified, Hadlee said, because Willis had let one go at Ewen Chatfield, the No 11 batsman.

"To me, and I had support from the team, it was a case of an eye for an eye. If England were going to let rip at New Zealand, then it was up to me to make sure they copped a few back".

Illingworth innings over, bawled out at 51

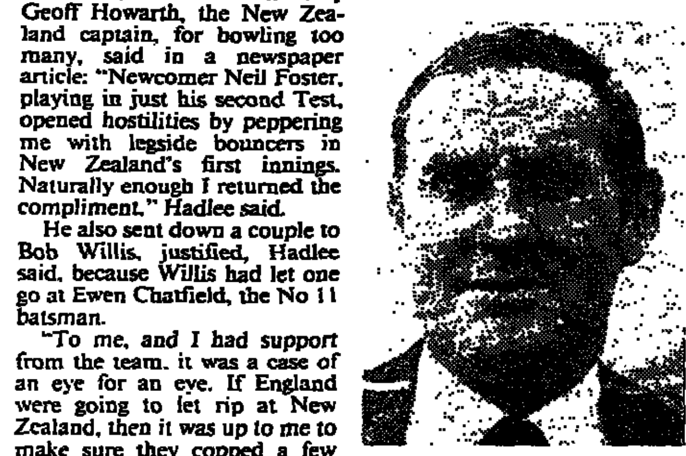
Ray Illingworth has ended a playing career with Yorkshire which began 33 years ago. The former England captain said yesterday that he is not prepared to put up any longer with the shouting and bawling which he had to endure last season from certain sections of the crowd. The 51-year-old off-spinner, who last summer led Yorkshire to the John Player League trophy, will continue as team manager for the time being.

Illingworth explained: "I did say at the end of last season that I would be prepared to play in some one-day matches if necessary. But after talking the matter over with my wife and family I have decided to call it a day.

"Even though I am now 51, I still topped the national bowling averages in one-day matches last season and I feel I could do well again, but I'm not going to take any more stick."

Illingworth brought Yorkshire their first trophy in 14 years last summer, but he was often subjected to verbal abuse on the field because of the continuing Boycott controversy.

Illingworth also announced that the 35-year-old fast bowler, Steve Oldham, will be returning to Yorkshire from Derbyshire where he has played since 1980. Oldham will play if necessary, but his main job will be to coach the young bowlers.


Illingworth: no more stick

W Indians inspired by Harper

Canberra (Reuter) – The off-spin bowler, Roger Harper, took four for 24 as the West Indians comfortably defeated Australian Capital Territory in a one-day match here yesterday.

The local batsmen, chasing a formidable target of 244, were always struggling against the West Indian attack, and could total only 184 for seven off their 50 overs. The pace bowlers, Garner and Holding, were used sparingly, bowling only 11 overs between them, while Harper and Gomes bowled their full quota of 10 apiece.

The West Indians made a poor start, losing their first three wickets for only 21 runs.

SCORES: West Indians 243 for nine (50 overs). Australian Capital Territory 184 for seven (50 overs) (K Stone 52, Harper 4 for 24).

Australian sponsorship

Sydney (Reuter) – Four young Australian cricketers were yesterday awarded Esso scholarships for the 1984 English season. They are Peter Faulkner, of Tasmania, Ian Carmichael, of South Australia, Brett Mulder, of West Australia, and Brett Henschell, of Queensland. The Australian cricket board said the four would play during the English summer for counties yet to be allocated.

Henschell, aged 23, a right-handed batsman and off-spinner, has scored more than 1,000 runs in Sheffield Shield, and Mulder, another off-spinner, toured England with the Australian under-19s in 1983.

Smith measures up with a swift century

Sydney, (Reuter) – Steve Smith, Australia's new opening batsman, took advantage of a depleted attack to hit 106 from only 129 deliveries in his side's 87-run victory in a World Series Cup one-day match here yesterday. The result virtually guaranteed that Australia will meet the West Indies in next month's trials at Pakistan's expense.

Smith, 22 celebrated his move up the order by providing the cornerstone of the Austrailian total of 244 for eight.

He has been picked for the forthcoming tour of the West Indies and proved the selectors right in a partnership with Ritchie which gave Australia 50 runs in 43 minutes from 10 overs.

Smith took charge of the proceedings after Wessels, his fellow opener, was caught for seven.

Pakistan badly missed the experience and skill of fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz and only their leg-spinner, Abdul Qadir, gave Australia any trouble, although even Qadir proved expensive, conceding 42 runs from his nine overs. Pakistan got away to a disastrous start when Mudassar was run out without scoring and Mohsin Khan was bowled for one.

Their captain, Imran Khan, steadied the innings with the help of Javed Miandad but when he was run out for 41 the Pakistani batting collapsed.

"Kim Hughes said if you get to 30 or 40, you will get your century, and I wanted to prove him right", said Smith. "I thought I scratched around for a while and the occasional one seamed away. But the longer I stayed the better I felt".

Smith's form had slumped recently after touring Sri Lanka in April, but scores of 75 and 100 in Sheffield Shield matches revived his confidence.

The West Indies head the three-way table with 10 points from six games, Australia have seven from seven and Pakistan three from seven. For Australia not to make the final they would have to lose their last three games and Pakistan would have to win all theirs.

AUSTRALIA:

S B Smith c Qadir b Rashid	106
K C Wessels c Imran b Tahir	7
G M Ritchie st Ashraf b Qadir	31
K J Hughes b Qadir	3
A R Border b Mudassar	11
W B Phillips run out	25
R W Marsh c Ashraf b Quadir	20
G F Lawson st Ashraf b Quadir	2
J N Maguire not out	7
R M Hogg not out	8
Extras (b 8, l-b 3, w 10, n-b 3)	24
Total (for 8 wkts)	244

Did not bat: C G Rackemann.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–18, 2–85, 3–97, 4–122, 5–198, 6–218, 7–221, 8–234.

BOWLING: Rashid Khan 9–0–36–1; Tahir Naqqash 10–3–56–2; Abdul Qadir 9–1–42–3; Mudassar Nazar 10–1–33–1; Ejaz Faqih 7–0–36–0; Wasim Raja 5–0–30–0.

PAKISTAN

Mudassar Nazar run out	0
Mohsin Khan b Lawson	1
Imran Khan run out	41
Javed Miandad c Marsh b Maguire	26
Qasim Omar c Marsh b Hogg	0
Wasim Raja st Marsh b Wessels	32
Ejaz Faqih b Hogg	14
Tahir Naqqash b Hogg	0
Abdul Qadir c Marsh b Hogg	9
Rashid Khan b Border	17
Ashraf Ali not out	11
Extras (b 2, lb 3, w 1)	6
Total (47.2 overs)	157

FALL OF WICKETS: 1–0, 2–1, 3–45, 4–46, 5–103, 6–103, 7–104, 8–120, 9–129.

BOWLING: Lawson 6-3-15-1; Rackemann 10-2-16-0; Maguire 9-1-19-1; Hogg 10-0-37-4; Wessels 9-0-50-1; Border3.2-0-15-1.

TENNIS

Scanlon not up to his seeding

Philadelphia (Agencies) – Brad Gilbert, the conqueror of Britain's John Lloyd in the first round, caused the major upset on Tuesday in the second round of the United States professional indoor championship here at the Spectrum. In a day which saw the departure of four seeded players, Gilbert defeated Bill Scanlon, a fellow American and seeded No 5, 6-4, 6-2.

Wojtek Fibak, the 1981 runner-up, recovered from 3-1 down in the final set to put out the tenth seed, Tim Mayotte, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 and Ben Testerman beat the seventh seed, Gene Mayer, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 in an all American match.

Eric Korita, whose powerful service had taken him to victory over Stefan Edberg, winner of the junior grand slam last year, eliminated Edberg's Swedish countryman, Henrik Sundstrom, 6-3, 6-1.

Gilbert's sound driving and volleying took him through against Scanlon who was the highest ranked player to fall. He took the first four games but Scanlon briefly showed his resistance when he saved three set points to recover at 4-5. But Scanlon netted a service return on the fourth set point and, in the second set, he had on answer to Gilbert's passing shots

Fibak: more competitive

Fibak triumphed after an unbalanced deciding set in which he trailed 3-1, led 5-4 then lost service to love for 5-5. He said later that he would be more competitive this year.

Sundström, the thirteenth seed, was on the receiving end of Korita's thundering service and was unable to get into his stride. Testerman's victory was less easily achieved. The qualifier lost the first set but prolonged the contest for two hours and a half and won the final game against service.

FIRST ROUND: H Solomon (US) bt M Bauer (US), 6–4, 6–1; L Pimek (Cz) bt R Harmon (US), 6–1, 7–5.

SECOND ROUND: B Gilbert (US) bt W Scanlon (US), 6–4, 6–2; E Korita (US) bt H Sundström (Swe), 6–3, 6–1; E Teltscher (US) bt G Michibata (Can), 6–4, 6–1; J Kriek (US) bt V Van Patten (US), 6–4, 6–4; S Davis (US) bt S Giammalva (US), 7–5, 2–6, 6–4; H Leconte (Fr) bt N Odizor (Nigeria) 6–1, 6–1; B Testerman (US) bt G Mayer (US) 6–7, 6–4, 6–3; W Fibak (Pol) bt T Mayotte (US), 3–6, 6–3, 7–5.

No stopping the Czech

Marco Island, Florida (Agencies) – Hana Mandlikova, the Czechoslovak who ended Martina Navratilova's 54-match winning sequence last week, is maintaining her impressive form. After two years without a title her victory ovr Miss Navratilova was her second in successsion, and on Tuesday she made progress in the women's grand prix tournament here.

Seeded No 3, she defeated Kathrin Keil, a professional for only one week, 6-2, 6-3, and said: "Sometimes it is easy to come off a win like that and lose easily to someone you've never heard of. I wanted to make sure I didn't do it here. I've been feeling confident after beating Martina."

FIRST ROUND: H Mandlikova (Cz) bt K Keil (US), 6-2, 6-3; C Benjamin (US) bt H Sukova (Cz), 7-5, 6-4; B Gadusek (US) bt R Casals (US), 6-0, 6-3; K Horvath (US) bt L Allen (US), 6-1, 6-1; P Casale (US) bt K Sands (US), 6-2, 6-2; L Araya (Peru) bt G Purdy (US), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6; I Madruga-Osses (Arg) bt C Bassett (Can), 6-3, 6-2; A Hobbs (GB) bt A-M Cecchini (It), 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

YACHTING

US rallies under a new banner

San Diego (AP) – Dennis Conner, the first American to lose sailing's top trophy, the America's Cup, announced that he would try to win it back from Australia with the support of a national organization under the banner of the San Diego Yacht Club.

Conner, commodore of the club, said he had notified the New York Yatch Club of his plans on Monday. The New York club have sponsored the American champion in the race for the past 132 years and are to decide in April whether or not to choose Conner to represent them again.

"The New York Yatch Club deserves recognition for upholding the best tradition in yachting for more than a century," Conner, who saidled for the New York club last September and in 1980, said. "But because of the enthusiasm and support we've received for fielding a national effort we feel this is the appropriate path to take."

He announced the formation of a national coalition of yatch club organizations to form the backbone of his effort. It will be called America's Cup '87. "Our goal was to make America's Cup '87 a truly national group with the sole purpose of winning the cup for America rather than for any particular club or region," Conner said.

● Canberra (AFP) – Australia's winning team were recognized in the Australia day honours list announced yesterday by Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen. Alan Bond, the syndicate head, received the highest honour, the Order of Australia, while the designer, Ben Lexcen, the manager, Warren Jones, the project manager, John Longley, the sailmaker, Tom Schnackenberg and the skipper, John Bertrand, were awarded a lower office of the order.

هكذا من الاصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM: news and information.

6.30 Breakfast Time: with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. Today's specials include Breakfast Time doctor (between 8.30 and 9.00) and Glynn Christian's cookery item (8.45-9.00). Regular items include news at 6.30 and half-hourly until 8.30; sport (6.40, 8.40) TV Choice (6.55) and the review of the morning papers (7.18 and 8.18). Russell Grant's horoscope item is at 8.35.

9.00 The Genuine Article: how to tell real jewels from fakes. With John FitzMaurice Mills; 9.25 Pages from Ceefax.

10.30 Play School: A House Made of Snow; 10.55 Ceefax pages.

12.30 News Afternoon: 12.57 Financial Report. And sub-titled news headlines.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Holiday hints from Jill Crawshaw; music by Carmel. 1.45 King Rollo; 1.50 Brick-a-brac.

2.00 The Afternoon Show: Anorexia victims talk about the distressing condition. Also, a discussion about the paranormal. Special guests: Peter Brough and Archie Andrews; 2.40 Dynasty: Blake invites his wife's former lover, Mathew Blaisdel, to dinner; 3.25 Arthur Negus Enjoys: A visit to Goodwood House.

3.50 The amazing Adventures of Morph: with Tony Hart; 3.55 Play School: It's Thursday: the story of The Weathercock; 4.20 Heathcliff: cartoon with a cat; 4.25 Jackanory: Cecile Paoli reads the story Cat Skin; 4.40 Fonz and the Happy Days Gang: cartoon; 5.05 John Craven's Newsround; 5.10 Blue Peter: The one-handed Leicestershire clock that has stood still for a century.

5.40 Sixty Minutes: The line-up is: 5.40 News; 5.54 Weather; 5.55 Regional magazines: 6.38 Closing headlines.

6.40 Doctor Who: Episode one of Frontios. With Peter Davison, Peter Gilmore and Lesley Dunlop.

7.05 Tomorrow's World: Science and technology magazine. The weight-watchers' scales that tell us the whole truth about what we are eating (calorie content, etc): and new techniques to diagnose ante-natal abnormalitites which could help make doctors' decisions easier in the light of the abortion controversy.

7.30 Top of the Pops: with Mike Smith and Richard Skinner.

8.05 The Living Planet: The second film to add more detail to David Attenborough's Portrait of the Earth is called The Frozen World. Whether it is at the North Pole or the South Pole, in the Himalayas or the Andes, there is one common enemy for plants, animals and people: the intense cold. We are reminded how the humans and flora and fauna still manage to survive.

9.00 News: the reader is Sue Lawley.

9.25 Diana: Episode 3 of Andrew Davies's 10-part adaptation of R. F. Delderfield's novel finds Jan (now played by Kevin McNally) leaving Devon to work in Fleet Street. Jenny Seagrove now takes over as the girl of the title.

10.20 Question Time: Sir Robin Day's panel tonight consists of Lord Annan; Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West; Edwina Currie, Conservative MP for Derbyshire South; and Ruth Lebbitt, a specialist in social policy.

11.20 Letting Go: How three families coped with the situation when their teenaged children attempted to assert their independence.

11.45 News headlines.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain: with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Today's specials include Jeremy Beadle (7.05, 8.05); Stars and their families (8.10); Films (8.35); and Michael Barry's cookery spot (9.05). Regular items include news (6.30, then half-hourly until 9.00); Sport (6.35, 7.35); Mad Lizzie (6.50, 9.15), Guest of the Day (7.40), and Competition Time (8.27).

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames News Headlines; 9.30 For Schools: 9.30 Fish;9.42Magic and mystery; 9.59 Numbers: 10.11 Moving Again; 10.28 People and Politics; 10.50 Bones in Action; 11.08 Basil Brush; 11.22 Daily bread deliveries; 11.39 The German Programme: Bei Bekannten/Freunden.

12.00 Emma and Grandpa: repeated at 4.00; 12.10 Get up and Go! with Beryl Reid; 12.30 The Sullivans: Australian family-at-war serial.

1.00 News; 1.20 Thames News; 1.30 A Plus: An invited audience listens to arguments for, and against, working women.

2.00 Crown Court: The verdict in the case of the journalist (Jim Broadbent) accused of receiving official secrets from a Ministry of Defence employee; 2.30 The Agatha Christie Hour: The Manhood of Edward Robinson. Nicholas Farrell plays the man who, winning a competition, buys the car of his dreams. With Cherie Lunghi (r); 3.30 Sons and Daughters: Fiona has an unexpected visitor.

4.00 Children's ITV: Emma and Grandpa (r); 4.15 Batfink: cartoon; 4.20 Do It: The continuing story of Sheelagh Gilbey, the resourceful newspaper girl; 4.45 This is Me: A film about Paul Joseph, 13, to whom the ballet world has never stopped beckoning; 5.15 The Young Doctors: Sister Scott is forced to cooperate with an intruder.

5.45 News; 6.00 Thames News; 6.30 Thames Sport. With Steve Rider and Simon Reed.

7.00 Knight Rider: Michael (David Hasselhoff) briefly loses his memory and reverts to his old identity.

8.00 The Steam Video Company: Creature from the Black Forest Gateau. Horror film spoof about a strange creature (half human, half car park attendant) who is terrorizing London. With William Franklyn, Barry Cryer, Anna Dawson and the rest of last Thursday night's cast.

8.30 Hotel: An employee at the hotel becomes the victim of a sexual blackmailer. With Anne Baxter and James Brolin.

9.30 TV Eye: Corruption in British public life. The finger of suspicion is pointed at a Midlands city council; at British Leyland; and at two of the Government's property services agency outlets. Reporter: Peter Prendergast.

10.00 News at Ten. And Thames News Headlines.

10.30 Film: In Like Flint (1967) Spy thriller, with a high comedy content, starring James Coburn as the agent who is assigned to save the world from a subversive organization consisting entirely of women, and from a power-crazed American general. You can tell that the film is not to be taken seriously because the organization's headquarterrs are in the Virgin Islands. With Lee J Cobb, Jean Hale and Andrew Duggan. Directed by Gordon Douglas.

12.35 Nights Thoughts: with the Rev Kenneth Greet.

Jackie Gleason and Laurence Olivier: (Channel 4, 9.30pm)

CHOICE

● MR HALPERN AND MR JOHNSON (Channel 4, 9.30pm) is a two-handed conversation piece. Two elderly gentlemen exchange brief words at their first meeting in a cemetery, then develop the relationship over drinks in an hotel and subsequently over lunch. But there is a silent and invisible third party present, the deceased wife of one of them, who is the sole topic of their conversation. Incorporeal she might be, but in dramatic terms, she is an infinitely more substantial figure than either of the two old chaps - which could mean either that Lionel Goldstein's play has not come off or that, if if this is the effect he intended, that it has. It might, on the other hand, be something to do with a strangely disorientated performance by Laurence Olivier as the brand-new widower who slides in and out of different social classes with the same abandon with which his speech swings between the East End of London and the West Side of New York. There is a similar lack of definition about the precise geographical setting of the play itself, though the waiters sound vaguely American. There is no mistaking the side of the Atlantic from which Jackie Gleason, the Mr Johnson of the title, comes. He spends much of the play trying to convince Olivier's Mr Halpern that the 40-year liaison he had with his wife was nothing more than platonic. Not until the very end do we discover that bereavement is not the only thing the two men have in common.

● Even more so than A Star is Born, I COULD GO ON SINGING (BBC 2, 6.55pm) is the film in which the actress in Judy Garland yields nothing to the popular singer. Some critics thought that Miss Garland's performance as the mother trying to retrieve her son, was the cinema's definitive study in heartbreak.

● Radio choice: Ian Saynor's young lover takes a bit of time to warm up in ROMEO AND JULIET (Radio 3, 7.5pm), but when the fire eventually gets started, the whole production ignites, too. Harriet Walters's Juliet is alight from the start . . . Paul Angelis's play WHERE ARE YOU NOW, MARGARET MCCULA? (Radio 4, 3.00pm) rams the point home that sentimental journeys into the past are best avoided. Some realistic dialogue and a strong feeling for the Merseyside location ensure that the message is safely, and entertainingly, delivered to us.

BBC 2

9.00 Pages from Ceefax; 9.15 Daytime on Two (until 3.00). The line-up is:- 9.15 Encounter: Spain; 9.33 Descubra Espana: Spanish lesson; 9.52 Jim and the Beanstalk; 10.12 Science Workshop; 10.34 Two's Company; 11.05 Maths-in-a-Box: 11.30 Cave Paintings of Lascaux; 11.55 Better Badminton; clear, drop, smash; 12.10 Newsreels of the 1950s; 12.45 Write Away.

1.10 Specialist Civil Servants; 1.38 Around Scotland (the River Tay); 2.00 You and Me; 2.15 Music Time; 2.40 Walrus: The Sack.

3.00 International Snooker: The quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters. From the Wembley Conference Centre. It is a nine-frame match. There is further coverage, also on BBC 2, at 5.40, 10.10 and 11.35.

5.35 News summary: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

5.40 International Snooker: back to the Benson and Hedges Masters.

6.25 Hooked! The second heat of this match angling competition from the banks of the Trent at Manor House Fisheries, Newark-on-Trent. There is also an interview with Matt Summers, secretary of the Disabled Angling Club.

6.55 Film: I Could Go on Singing (1963) There is much sad irony in the title of this Judy Garland drama, with songs. It was to be her last film. She plays an American singer on a visit to London where she becomes emotionally involved with her unsuspecting son and her old lover (Dirk Bogarde). With Jack Klugman and Aline MacMahon. Directed by Ronald Neame (Choice).

8.30 Out of Court: with David Jessel, Sue Cook, Ed Boyle and Michael Molyneux. All about crime, punishment, and the machinery of justice.

9.00 The Hello Goodbye Man: Comedy series about the world's worst salesman (Ian Lavender). Tonight, a glib salesman tries to sell him a burglar alarm of dubious value. Co-starring Mary Tamm.

9.30 Forty Minutes: Divorce - Unreasonable Behaviour. The first of two documentaries about wrecked marriages. Tonight: the children who get caught up in the legal and emotional battles that follow their parents decision to end their eight years of marriage.

10.10 International Snooker: The latest at the Benson and Hedges Masters.

10.50 Newsnight. All the latest news, and in-depth comment about the stories that matter.

11.35 International Snooker: The last report of the night from the Benson and Hedges Masters, at Wembley Conference Centre. Ends at 12.15am.

CHANNEL 4

5.00 Television Scrabble: Small-screen version of the popular home-based word game. With Alan Coren, editor of Punch, and Rob Buckman.

5.30 Everybody Here: Multi-cultural programme for the younger viewer. Ivy Griffiths, believed to be London's only black woman bus driver, describes her working day.

6.00 Barriers: Episode four of this 20-episode drama serial about an orphaned teenager's search for his natural parents. Tonight, a group of hooligans disrupt a school concert, and Billy (Benedict Taylor), one of the performers, plans to get his own back on the intruders (r).

6.30 Quilts in Women's Lives: A prize-winning film in which Pat Ferrero interviews quilt-makers throughout the United States. Some are immigrants; others were born in America. They discuss the creative process in their work, and how their daily lives have been transformed by what they do.

7.00 Channel Four News.

7.50 Comment: A platform for the views of Maya Angelou, an American writer, actress and dancer.

8.00 Treasure Hunt: Another edition of what must be one of the most consistently entertaining races against the clock ever seen on British television. Barbara and Paul Green, from Northern Ireland, are the studio clue-hunters who send the tireless Anneka Rice off to York in her helicopter in search of hidden treasure. Kenneth Kendall's guidance with the clues is invaluable.

9.00 Soap: Jessica fires the detective, Donohue, because she has fallen in love with him. And there is more about the supposed adultery of Mary and Burt.

9.30 Mr Halpern and Mr Johnson: Two-hander, written by Lionel Goldstein, and co-starring Laurence Olivier and Jackie Gleason as the two men who meet for the first time, at the funeral of the wife of one of them (see Choice).

10.35 Love, Sidney: American comedy series, with "heart", starring Tony Randall as the bachelor who befriends a young girl and becomes the "adopted" father of her little daughter.

11.05 Wish You Were Here: Another chance to see last Monday night's Thames Television holiday programme dealing with holidays in Normandy (including visits to some of the Second World War battlefields), the attractions of Edinburgh; and the second part of a fly-and-drive holiday in the Lake Tahoe region of the American West.

11.30 Stand Your Ground: Self-defence for women, demonstrated by Kaleghl Quinn.

11.55 Closedown.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News Summary. 6.45 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 7.55 Weather. 7.00, 8.00 Today's News. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather; Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Checkpoint (new series). A weekly investigation into the problems of listeners. With Roger Cook as the intrepid investigator (r).
9.30 The Living World.
10.00 News; In Business with Peter Hobday.
10.30 Morning Story: 'Sheraton Lane Ends' by Ted Moore. The reader; Christian Rodska.
10.45 Daily Service from Edinburgh.
11.00 News; Travel; In Black and White. One in 340 people in journalism is black. Margaret Percy looks at this lack of representation, and at the increase of black newspapers in recent years (r).
11.48 Enquire Within.
12.00 News; You and Yours.
12.27 Get The Most out of your Body. (4) The Motor System. With Dr Rob Buckman and Jaime Adams, the singing nurse. 12.55 Weather; Programme News.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour. Today's edition has an item in which Roz Morris interviews some older wives. She also talks to their husbands and there is episode nine of Earthly Possessions.
3.00 Afternoon Theatre: Where are you Now, Margaret McCulla? By Paul Angelis. A play about a television journalist who takes a trip back to his native Liverpool where he tries to find his childhood sweetheart, by whose memory he has been obsessed for years. With Michael Angelis and Shirin Taylor.†
4.00 News; Just After Four. Lynn ten Kate's overland journey to Sri Lanka (7).
4.10 Bookshelf. Radio 4's book programme. With Hunter Davies.
4.40 Story Time: 'The Leopard' by Giuseppe di Lampedusa (9). Read by Gabriel Woolf.
5.00 News Magazine. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather; Programme News.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News; Financial Report.
6.30 My Word! (r).†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Concert Prelude. Jeremy Siepmann looks ahead to tonight's concert.
7.30 Scottish National Orchestra direct from the City Hall, Glasgow. Part 1: Berlioz. (Overture: Le Corsaire), and Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 4, with Peter Frankl as soloist).†
8.15 Any Answers?
8.35 Concert Part 2: Mozart, (Symph No 38); and Strauss (Till Eulenspiegel).†
9.25 Silent Rendezvous. Maria Jolas recounts her memories of artistic life in Paris in the 1920's in conversation with Frank Delaney.
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Art magazine. Includes reviews of Flotow's opera Martha (New Sadlers's Wells Opera), and an interview with Roman Polanski.
10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'Ethan Frome' by Edith Wharton (4). Read by Michael J Shannon.
10.30 The World Tonight, including 11.00 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. 12.15-Close Shipping Forecast.

England VHF: as above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather; Programme News For Schools: 9.05 A Service for Schools. 9.25 Secondary English 11-14. 9.55 Movement and Drama 1. 10.15 In the News. 11.30 Wavelength. 1.55-2.00pm Listening Corner. 2.00-3.00pm For Schools: 2.00 Living Language. 2.00 Radio Geography. 2.40 Quest. 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00-11.30 Study on 4: Allez France! 12.30-1.10 Schools Night-Time Broadcasting: – 12.30 Books, Plays, Poems. 12.55 Examination English 14-17.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather; 7.00 News.

7.05 Morning Concert: Scarlatti's Sinfonia in D (Linde/ André/Collegium Musicum, Zurich); Marenzio's Intermedi No 2 (Music for the Medici Wedding); Jacob van Eyck's Variations on a Bravade (Hans-Martin Linde, flute); Frederick the Great's Sonata in E minor (Linde/Dahler/Muller) and Bach's Brandenberg Concerto No 5 (Linde Consort): 18.00 News.

8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Sibelius's Lemminkaigen and the Maidens of Saari (Lemminkainen legends); and Nielsen's Symphony No 3 (Sinfonia espansiva: with Kirsten Schultz, Peter Rasmussen and Danish Radio SO. †9.00 News.

9.05 This week's Composer: Couperin. Today's works include the Concert X1V in D minor: the Easter motet: Victoria Christo Resurgenti; the Trio Sonata in B minor: Le Parnasse or L'Apotheose de Corelli. †

10.00 Britten' Piano Concerto: Richter with the English Chamber Orchestra. The composer conducts. †

10.35 Music for Clarinet: a recital by Michael Collins, with Vanessa Latarche as accompanist. Works by Franz Anton Hoffmeister (Sonata in F), Bernhard Henrik Crusell (Introduction and Variations on Swiss Airs, Op 12), and Alec Templeton (Pocket-sized Sonata No 2). †

11.20 Chamber Orchestras of Europe: English Chamber Orch, with the BBC Singers, Jennefer Smith (sop) and Valda Aveling (harpsichord). Part one. Soler's Salve, for soprano, chorus and orchestra; Gerhard's Cancionero de Pedrell; and Falla's Harpsichord Concerto. At 12.10 Falla's El Corregidor y la Molinera. Interval reading at 12.05. News at 1.00.

1.05 Manchester Midday Concert: Medici String Quartet play Haydn's String Quartet in G minor, Op 74 No s3: and Mozart's in G, K 397.

2.00 I Masnadieri: Verdi's four-act opera. Sung in Italian, on records. It is based on Schiller's Die Rauber. Richard Bonynge conducs the Welsh National Opera forces. Joan Sutherland sings the role of Amalia, with Franco Bonisolli as Carlo. Act one. Act 2 at 2.50, Act 3 at 3.30, and Act 4 at 4.05, with interval readings in between.

4.35 Clementi: John McCabe (piano) plays the Sonata in F minor, Op 13;† 4.55 News.

5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: another Michael Berkeley selection.†

6.30 Bandstand: Larvik Wind Ensemble play Warren Benson's Symph No 2 (Lost Songs).†

7.00 Jane Manning and Friends: the soprano, with Simon Rowland-Jones (viola) and Tony Hymas (piano) in performances of Frank Bridge's Three Songs; Jonathan Lloyd's Three Songs; and a Noel Coward encore.†

7.35 Romeo and Juliet: Another chance to hear Richard Wortley's production of the Shakespeare play, in which Ian Saynor and Harriet Walter play the title roles, with Elizabeth Spriggs (as the Nurse), Stephen Thorne (Friar Laurence), William Nighy (Mercutio), Stuart Organ (Tybalt), and Alex Jennings (Benvolio). The music was specially written for this production by Ilona Sekacz (r).†

9.55 Sibelius: the Berlin Philharmonic, conducted by Herbert von Karajan, play the incidental music: Pelleas et Melisande.†

10.25 Music in Our Time: introduced by John Marlow Rhys. Includes the first broadcast of Robin Walker's Dance/Still; Thys's Telemachus stopped at the fountain (a first performance); and Gerhard's Libra. Capricorn.

11.15 News. Until 11.18.

Radio 2

News on the hour. Major bulletins 7.00, 8.00am, 1.00, 5.00pm and 12.00 midnight. Headlines 5.30, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30am (MF/MW). 4.00am Collin Berry† 5.30 Ray Moore† 7.30 Terry Wogan†incl. 8.31 Racing Bulletin. 10.00 Jimmy Young† 12.00pm Steve Jones†incl. 1.05 Sport. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford†2.02, 3.02 Sport. 3.30 Music All The Way† 4.00 David Hamilton†4.02, 5.05 Sport. 6.00 John Dunn† 6.02 Sport. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (MF only). 8.00 Wally Whyton with Country Greats in Concert and Country Club. 9.55 Sport. 10.00 Bernie Clifton's Comedy Shop with Pat Mooney, Tony Peers and Caroline Turner. 10.30 Star Sound Extra. Omar Sharif talks to Philip Bergson about his screen career. 11.00 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Nightride† 3.00-4.00 Marching and Waltzing†

Radio 1

News on the half-hour from 6.30 am until 9.30 pm and then 12.00 midnight (MF/ML).
6.00 am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Mike Smith. Incl. 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.00 Steve Wright. 4.30 Peter Powell. Incl. 5.30 Newsbeat. 7.00 David Jensen. 10.00-12.00 John Peel.†
VHF RADIOS 1 and 2: 4.00-10.00pm With Radio 2. 10.00-12.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Country Style. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The Painter of Signs. 8.30 John Peel. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Edward Elgar: The Making of a Composer. 10.15 Monitor. 10.30 Yes Minister. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 New Ideas. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Top Twenty. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 The Pleasure's Yours. 2.30 Discovery. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 THe Reith Lectures. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Meridian. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 9.15 Ulster Newsletter. 9.20 In The Meantime. 9.30 Business Matters. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 The Week in Wales. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Radio Theatre. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Ulster Newsletter. 1.50 In the Meantime. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Personal Impact. 2.30 Talking about Music. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britian. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Business Matters. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Country Style. 5.45 The World Today.
All times in GMT

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
† Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

BBC1 Wales 12.57-1.00 News of Wales. 3.48-3.50 News of Wales. 5.55 (Part of Sixty Minutes) Wales today. 11.45 News headlines. News of Wales headlines. Scotland 12.55-1.00 Scottish news. 5.55 (Part of Sixty Minutes) Scotland: Sixty Minutes. 11.45 News headlines. Scottish news summary. Northern Ireland 12.57-1.00 Northern Ireland news. 3.48-3.50 Northern Ireland news. 5.55 (Part of Sixty Minutes) Scene Around Six. 11.20-12.00 Professional Boxing: (Barry McGuigan v Charm Chiteule). 12.00 midnight Northern Ireland news headlines. England 5.55 (Part of Sixty Minutes). 11.30 Close.

S4C Starts 2.00pm Hwnt Ac Yama. 2.20 Ffalabalam. 2.35 Be Your Own Boss. 3.20 Everyone a special kind of artist. 3.50 Country Crisis? 4.15 Television Scrabble. 4.45 Guto Goch a Malwen. 5.00 Aabott and Costello show. 6.00 Brookside. 6.30 Chicago Teddy Bears. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Ar Adain Chwim. 8.00 Childhood. 9.25 Sgrech '84. 10.20 Snwcer. 11.00 Space Invaders. 1.00am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20pm-1.30 News. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Mr Smith. 6.00 North Tonight. 6.30 Police News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 That's my Boy. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 10.30 Minder. 11.30 Crann Tara. 12.00 News, closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

CHANNEL As London except: 1.20-1.30pm News. 2.30 Family Trees. 3.00-3.30 University Challenge. 5.15-5.45 Beverly Hillbillies*. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.55 Jazz. 7.00-8.00 Casablanca. 10.35 Hill Street Blues. 11.30 Women in Rock 'n' Roll. 12.25am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 3.30-4.00 Family Tree. 5.10 Bodyline. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30 Now You See It. 7.00 Take The High Road. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 10.30 As I Please. 11.15 Sean Connery. 11.45 Late Call. 11.50 Crann Tara. 12.20am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Crown Court. 1.20 News. 1.30 Contact. 1.45-3.30 Film: Best Pair of Legs in the Business (Diana Coupland). 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25 News. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 10.35 Central Lobby. 11.05 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace*. 12.10am Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Terrahawks. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25 Northarn Life. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30-8.00 Carry On Laughing. 10.32 Come In. 11.00 Coming Up. 11.10 Sweeney. 12.10am Hello God, Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 10.30 Sweeney. 1.30 Benson. 12.00 Closedown.

HTV As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Three Little Words. 6.00 News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 10.30 West This Week. 11.00 Lou Grant. 12.00 Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.35 Wales at Six. 10.30-11.00 Wales This Week.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 That's Hollywood. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.00 Calendar. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 Calendar. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 10.30 Country Calendar. 11.00 Film: Vampire Circus (Adrienne Corri). 12.35am Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 At Ease. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.25 Police Six. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 10.30 Counterpoint. 11.00 Film: Next Victim (Carroll Baker). 12.20am News, Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Farming Brief. 12.20pm-1.00 Crown Court. 1.20 News. 1.30 Afternoon Club. 1.35 Farmhouse Kitchen. 2.10 Miracle take Longer. 2.40 Stange but true. 3.10 Newbreak. 3.20 Sons and Daughters. 3.50-4.00 A–z. 5.15-5.45 Three Little Words. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 10.30 Backchat. 11.00 Showcase. 11.15 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace*. 12.20am Company. Closedown.

TSW As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.30 Family Tree. 3.00-3.30 University Challenge. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South-West. 6.30 Gardens For All. 7.00-8.00 Casablanca. 10.35 Hill Street Blues. 11.30 Women in Rock 'n Roll. 12.25am Postscript. Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Farmhouse Kitchen. 1.20 Granada Reports. 1.30-2.00 Paint Along With Nancy. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Beverley Hillbillies*. 6.00 This is your Right. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30 Granada reports. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 12.35am Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Benson. 7.30-8.00 Carry on Laughing. 10.30 Newhart. 11.00 Squash. 11.30 Streets of San Francisco. 12.30am Big Question. Closedown.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

Health service gets more time to name chiefs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities will be given at least a year to introduce the controvrsial proposals of the Griffiths report that general managers should be appointed as "chief executives" throughout the National Health Service.

After last week's meeting with the 14 regional health authorities' chairmen, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, is expected to announce a slower timetable than ministers originally hoped for implementing what some see as a radical change in the health service management.

Mr Fowler and Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, remain firmly committed to the Griffiths recommendations, and the names of those being appointed to the health service Management Board are expected to start emerging next month so that they can begin work.

Under the revised timetable, health authorities will be appointing general managers until April 1985, and the appointment of general managers at unit level will come after that.

Health authorities which want to make an earlier start will be allowed to do so, however, after April 1 – ministers' original target date for starting the changes. Paddington, in west London, has already earmarked its administrator, Mr Terry Hunt, as general manager designate for three years from April 1.

The Griffiths proposals have been greeted with outright opposition from the nurses and unions, and distinct scepticism from the British Medical Association. There has been a mixed reaction from health authorities and administrators, who have warned ministers that the changes must be carefully considered.

In general, the 14 regional health authorities, with some notable exceptions, have given the plans a warmer reception than many of the district authorities, and ministers seem to have taken to heart warnings that it would be counterproductive to try to railroad the changes through.

Ministers will soon start "head-hunting" the management board chairman, who will be effectively a director-general of the health service.

They are prepared to pay highly for a candidate of the right calibre from business or industry, but such a candidate may have to be disentangled from existing commitments, so the remainder of the board will be appointed with a temporary chairman first.

GCHQ union ban blamed on pressure from US

Continued from page 1

Nato allies were unhappy that a national one-day stoppage and further industrial sanctions at Cheltenham and the tracking station at Bude in Cornwall would damage strategic cover of signals traffic and hamper the surveillance of Soviet warships.

In their announcement on March 8, 1981, the unions said: "There will be a range of selective and disruptive action which will affect Britain's secret communications surveillance network. There will be both national and international repercussions."

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, is to meet leaders of the civil service unions this morning. Last night, he said: "This decision by the Foreign Secretary, made without consultation or advance notice to unions whatsoever, is an appalling and unacceptable denial of basic rights.

"Civil servants, whatever their work, deserve and require the protection of the union and proper union representation just as much as other workers.

"It is grossly offensive for the Foreign Secretary to imply that the fact of trade union membership poses any threat to national security. If there are or may be problems of any sort the Foreign Secretary should spell out what they are and discuss them with unions concerned, not jump to the most extreme measure possible.

"The offer of a tame, state-controlled union, backed up by £1,000 bribes, is no alternative to the right of genuine trade union membership

The Government has set a deadline of March 1 for GCHQ employees to accewpt the ex-gratia payments.



Duet with grandmother: Dame Joan Sutherland entertaining her granddaughter Natasha Bonynge, aged 8½ months, at rehearsal for the Australian Opera's production of *Adriana Lecouvreur* at the Sydney Opera House.

Renewed blizzards forecast

Continued from page 1

were all open, although many minor roads were still impassable.

The M62 was the only route open across the Pennines, and motorists endured seven-mile traffic jams.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, yesterday praised the work of the emergency services, helicopter crews and mountain rescue teams. However, last night it was fearred that much of the hard work of the past two days to open roads and restore power to thousands of homes could be undone by the expected blizzards.

● In Bingley, West Yorkshire, Police Constable Vincent Clements jumped into an icy canal to rescue a drowning dog.

Weekend whiteout, page 2

Optimism imbues Reagan message for nation

Continued from page 1

in the country's tax system if he is reelected.

The only significant new initiative in his speech would be an announcement of plans to launch a permanent orbiting space station early in the 1990's.

Yesterday's address came four days before Mr Reagan was to make his long-awaited formal declaration of his candidacy for reelection in November. His declaration will be made in a five-minute nation-wide television broadcast on Sunday night.

His reelection ambitions have been given a new boost by a *New York Times* – CBS News poll which showed him having a considerable lead over the two front-runners for the Democratic presidential nomination, Mr Walter Mondale and Senator John Glenn.

Much of this approval is based on the current economic recovery. The poll showed that the public regards his handling of the economy as approvingly now as they did in April, 1981, when he was still enjoying his post-election honeymoon period.

However, the poll also shows that foreign policy issues are becoming as important in the public's assessment of mr Reagan's performance as economic issues. Public approval of his administration's foreign policies is less strong, particularly over Lebanon.

The *New York Times* – CBS poll showed that Lebanon is potentially the most dangerous issue for the White House. The survey found that 49 per cent of those questioned felt US Marines should be pulled out of Lebanon as against 38 per cent who felt they should remain.

A majority of respondents also felt Mr Reagan "should try harder" to reach arms agreements with the Soviet Union.

Video MP confident of success

Mr Graham Bright, sponsor of the "video nasties" Bill, yesterday said he was confident of resisting an amendment, banning from homes those videos restricted to adult cinema clubs, after the committee debating the Bill ran out of time.

The amendment is supported by Mrs Thatcher.

MPs will have to wait another week before knowing whether the Prime Minister has won the first round in her battle to ban pornographic videos.

As it stands, the Bill bans videos showing gross violence and sexual perversion.

Mr Bright, Tory MP for Luton South, after hearing speeches supporting him from all parties said: "I have always been confident that we will just about do it, and now I think we will".

Israel makes 2,000 enemies in just half an hour

Hallousiyeh, Southern Lebanon. – The Israelis used a bulldozer to destroy Shaikh Abass Harb's home. They drove it in from the little road near the mosque, smashing through the front room and bringing down the back roof on a a pile of children's toys.

The bulldozer's tracks can still be seen running through what had been the Shaikh's drawing room and the villagers have piled some of his broken furniture and crockery in the rubble. Over the ruins, they have also draped a large Islamic banner containing a message for the Israelis, a series of angry, violent quotations from the Koran.

According to the Israelis the Shaikh, who is 27, was arrested and his house destroyed becaude he was "suspected of terrorist activities". They will not specify what these activites are supposed to be. Nor will they reveal where they have imprisoned him. But in the 30 minutes that the villagers say it took the bulldozer to smash the house last Saturday, the Israelis turned 2,000 people into implacable enemies.

The Government in Israel insists that it wants the Shia Muslims of southern Lebanon as its friends but the inhabitants of Hallousiyeh have been burning tyres on the approach roads to their village and yesterday were holding a noisy demonstration in the Shaikh's mosque.

It was a classic example of how an occuption army can turn its own life into a nightmare by embittering the very people it needs to have as allies.

In Shaikh Harb's absence, the spiritual welfare – and no doubt the political opinions – of his people are in the hands of Shaikh Adel Mowanis, aged 25, an unsmiling man with a narrow, ascetic face and a carefully groomed beard.

Fort under fire from guerrillas

"The Israelis brought in a large force of men and a helicopter on Saturday and surrounded the Shaikh's house," he said. "They tried to take him away but the women here attacked the Israelis and screamed at them. But the Israelis took him by force to the helicopter and all the women began screaming: *'Allahu Akhbar'* (God is great). The Israelis are against anyone who preaches."

Shaikh Mownais did not reveal exactly what Shaikh Harb did preach, nor was he exactly forthcoming about every circumstance of the arrest. One villager, for example, claimed that the Israelis had openly accused Shaikh Harb of possessing weapons.

What the Israelis will not say – presumably through some security fear – is that an Israeli Army fortress at Maroub on a hilltop a mile from Hallousiyeh is coming under fire from Guerrillas every two weeks and that the shots appear to come from the direction of Shaikh Harb's village.

Whether or not this warranted the confrontation that followed, however, is another matter. According to Shaikh Mowanis, the villagers threw stones at the Israeli troops and vehicles at Hallowusiyeh after Shaikh Harb's arrest. "Our people stood in front of the Israeli Vehicles," he said. "The soldiers started shooting in the air and drove our people to the other side of the village."

On Sunday, Shaikh Harb was flown back to Hallousiyeh. "His face did not look normal," Shaikh Mowanis continued. "He did not have his turban on and his hands were swollen. The Israelis were holding him by the shoulders . . . They told him to call the names of five people to come forward so that they could arrest them, and they did. Then they took them all away in two helicopters. Only God knows where they are."

Major Zeev Nathan, the Israeli Army spokesman in southern Lebanon would not say how long the Israelis intended to hold Shaikh Harb. Asked under what law the Israelis had destroyd the Shaikh's home in Lebanon without any form of judicial hearing, he replied – after putting the same question to his headquarters in Tel Aviv – that he did not know.

Ironically, the people of Hallousiyeh had opposed the Palestinian guerrilla presence in south Lebanon in the years before Israel's 1982 invasion and originally had welcomed the Israeli Army. Yesterday at least a dozen villages in the area had witnessed demonstrations against the Israelis and a burnt out car and rocks blocked the main road into Hallousiyeh.

Robert Fisk

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Last chance to see

The Greeks and Romans in Egypt, at the Randolph Gallery, Ashmolean Museum, **Oxford**; Tues to Sat 10 to 4 (ends today).

Music

Concert by pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin School, St George's, Brandon Hill, **Bristol**, 1

Concert by The Guarnarius String Quartet, University Hall, **Bath**, 7.30.

Bournemouth Sinfonietta concert at Dauntsey's School, West Lavington, Nr **Devizes**, Wilts, 7.30.

Talks, lectures

"The brain - biology's biggest challenge, by Prof Colin Blakemore, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers St, **Edinburgh**, 7.

"Elgar - his homes and his music", by Dr William Reed, Bolton Central Library, 7.

Exhibitions in progress

The Art of Etching, E. S. Lumsden 1883-1948, Maclaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr' Mon to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun (ends Feb 21).

British Studio Glass, Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, **Glasgow**; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Feb 25).

French painting: Observers of man, anthropological photography: 35 artists printmaking, three exhibitions at Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, **Oxford**: Tues-Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon (ends Mar 25).

Arts Clubs Exhibition, Cliffe Castle, Spring Gardens Lane, **Keighly**: Tues to Sun 10 to 5, closed Mon (ends Feb 19).

Private Views; Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, **Bath**; Mon-Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (ends Feb 25).

The story of the Artists International Association 1933-1953, Fruitmarket Gallery, 29 Market Street, **Edinburgh**; Mon-Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Feb 25).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,345

ACROSS

1 Reformation in the air – it came without E Napier, for example (13).
9 Case about extended opening in pub lasting three years (9).
10 Noble Bruce sometimes gets a game (5).
11 Stanley's pattern of current brass-hat (5).
12 Go back in the morning for these old characters (4).
13 She featured in a strip cartoon, naturally (4).
15 Protective cap does not prevent the limb being broken (7).
17 Real trouble with party member of high rank (7).
18 He provides vehicle to carry new tree (7).
20 Freudian consultant said to be compiler of records . . . (7).
21 . . . relating to what certain reactions reveal (2,2).
22 The advantage, for example, of French backing (4).
23 Mournful – that's Miss Thompson (5).
26 Cockney draper got out of bed? (5).
27 Excludes, for lack of space, many new words not in fashion (6,3).
28 Part of New York's Conservative – good show! (4,4,5).

DOWN

1 Put a gun on the guide called George (9,5).
2 Parliament taken aback when I go over long tale of woe (5).
3 Wheeler's route-guides (10).
4 Instalment has one so gripped in deep confusion (7).
5 Bad name for a house of this type (3,4).
6 Holly – the Italian's late wife (4).
7 Horse-doctor lay in wretched state – tight! (9).
8 In Lent, perhaps, it upset Letty North at times (14).
14 Attacks women vulgarly over side-issue (10).
16 Meeting envisaged about introduction of tugs on East River (9).
19 Prepares to publish what the Russians have done (7).
20 Measure of the pressure variation round Darien (7).
24 Couple get very little time in cathedral (5).
25 Mars land-measures (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,344

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Parliament today

Commons (2:30): Debate on White Paper on developments in the EEC, January to June, 1983.

Lords (3): Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange) Bill, third reading. Cable and Broadcasting Bill, committee, second day.

The markets

Retail Price Index: 342.8
London: The *FT* Index closed up 15.6 at 840.5.

Anniversaries

Douglas MacArthur, Allied commander in the South Pacific in the Second World War and in the Korean War, from which post he was dismissed by Truman in 1951; born Little Rock, Arkansas, USA, 1880. Deaths: Edward Jenner, discover of vaccination, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, 1823; Charles George Gordon, general, Khartum, Sudan, 1885.

Today is the Feast of Saints Timothy and Titus. Both were disciples and companions of St Paul, who addresses them in the Pastoral Epistles. Timothy represented the Apostle in Thessalonica, Corinth and at Ephesus, where he was martyred for opposing pagan rights. Titus was responsible for the organizing of the Church in Crete.

Golf championship

The Nigerian Open Golf Championship, worth $186,000, will go ahead as planned from February 23-26 despite the military coup on New Year'sEve, tournament officials say. A record first prize of $30,600 will be offered in black Africa's richest tournament which attracts many top Euroan golfers. The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) has cancelled its three tournaments in Nigeria this year because of the coup.

THE TIMES

A number of items normally included in *The Times* Information Service are missing from today's columns. This is because of a strike by clerical members of the Sogat '82 union. We apologize for the omissions.

New books – paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of intersting books published this week:
Beijing Street Voices, the poetry and politics of China's Democracy Movement, by David Goodman (Marion Boyars, £5.95)
Firebird 3, anthology of new fiction edited by Robin Robertson (Penguin, £3,50)
Love in Winter, by Storm Jameson (Virago, £3.95)
Modern Moral Philosophy, by W. D. Huson (Macmillan, £6.95)
None Turn Back, by Storm Jamesonn (Virago, £3.50)
Pluto's Republic, by Peter Medawar (Oxford, £4.95)
Sabbatical, fiction, by John Barth (Granada, £2.50)
Stong-Minded Woman, and other lost voices from 19th-century England, edited by Janet Horowitz Murray (Penguin, £7.95)
The Monkey King, fiction, by Timothy Mo (Abacus, £2.75)
The Regrets, by Joachim Du Bellay, translated by C. H. Sisson (Carcanet, £4.50)

PH

The papers

Spain's leading newspaper, El Pais, says that reported British concessions to China over Hongkong would make a mockery of London's continued refusal to negotiate the sovereignty of Gibraltar. Britain had effectively deprived itself of arguments for keeping its offshore colony by agreeing to surrender the sovereignty of Hongkong against the wishes of its inhabitants and when it still had a legal claim to at least some of the territory, the paper claims. "In Hongkong, London has renounced exactly those two fundamental arguments which it is using to deny Spain sovereignty over Gibraltar. This constitutes new proof that Britain's attitude to Gibraltar is not only ethically untenable but is also lacking in the most basic political logic," El Pais comments. Britain, which has held Gibraltar since 1704, says it cannot hand the Rock back to Spain against the wishes of its inhabitants, who are mostly of Mediterranean stock.

The New York Times says that President Reagan, ashamed to appear callous about lending a hand to the world's poor, blames a dearth of Congressional support for its decision to cut by a quarter, its quota of $1,000m a year for the International Development Association. The paper points out that the shortfall gives other donor nations an excuse for shaving their contributions too, thus compounding the loss to the IDA, the World Bank's special agency for long-term, no-interest loans to the poorest countries. Now a new American excuse – duplication – is offered to justify breaking a pledge to the smaller International Fund for Agricultural Development. The United States had promised $180m over three years, but both the Treasury and Budget Office want to give nothing. "It was self-interest and not just altruism that led Americans to contribute a 1982 total of £1,000m to the United Nations and its special funds, not including the IDA", the paper comments.

"Yet a Swedish study finds that in per capita terms, the US ranked only eighteenth among contributors, giving $4.36 compared with Norway's top-ranking $37.83. Trailing even further behind, in fifty-ninth place, was the Soviet Union whose $161m amounted to a miserly 60 cents per citizen. That from a nation that proclaims itself the natural ally of the world's poor. Here, surely, is an opportunity for Americans to expose Soviet penury in ways that hurt. But by cutting back on the IDA and threatening the IFAD, 'Uncle Cheap' is in a poor position to lecture 'Comrade Scrooge' ".

Roads

Wales and West: *A361:* Single lane traffic in Trowbridge High Street; temporary signals. M5: Lane closures north and southbound between junction 8 and 9. M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repair between junction 21 and junction 22 across Severn Bridge; both carriageways affected.

Midlands: A34: Roadworks south of Shipston on Stour at Tidmington, Warwickshire; delays. *A456:* Lane restrictions and closures between Hagley and Halesowen. *A14:* Lane closures at Huntingdon bypass. A45: Lane closures on Cambridge bypass.

North: *A628:* Improvement work to Thurlestone River bridge, south Yorkshire; single lane traffic controlled by traffic signals. *A645:* Traffic lights at Kellingley. *A579:* Bolton Road, Atherton, closed from junction with Old Bolton Road to Bolton boundary.

Scotland: All roadworks suspended in Scotland pending improvement in weather situation.

Information supplied by AA

Th AA point out the hidden hazard of black ice, which is covering roads across the entire country. Worst affected are southern roads particularly the A3 London to Portsmouth Road. In Hampshire police had to close the outside lanes on both carriageways of the M3 when the risk of accidents became too great.

National Days

Republic Day in India recalls January 26 1950, when the new Republican Constitution came into force and the Viceroy was replaced by a President. The British adminstration had withdrawn three years earlier after ruling India for almost 200 years. From 1947 until 1964 the country was ruled by Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and he was succeeded by Lal Bahadur Shastri. Since 1966 the Prime Minister has been Mrs Indira Gandhi, except between 1977 and 1980 when her Congress Pary was ousted by the Janata party.

Australia Day will this year be celebrated by a public holiday on Monday, January 30. On January 26 1788, the colony of New South Wales was founded by Captain Arthur Phillip at Port Jackson, later renamed Sydney. Under his command were 11 ships carrying 717 convicts, and over the next 80 years some 155,000 convicts were transported to the Australian colonies from Britain. Since 1901 Australia has been a federal commonwealth ruled in theory by the sovereign through the Governor General, assisted by the federal ministry.

Weather forecast

A frontal trough over central Britain will move slowly southwards as a deep depression moves eastwards across Southern England.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals developing, squally showers, some longer periods of rain or snow later; wind S veering W, strong to gale force, locally severe gale or storm force; max temp 7C to 9C (45F to 48F).

East Anglia, E, W Midlands, S Wales: Sunny intervals developing, squally showers, some longer periods of rain or sleet: wind S backing E fresh, locally strong; max temp 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

E, NW, central N, NE England, W Midlands, N Wales, Lake District: cloudy, outbreaks of sleet or snow, rain on some low ground, becoming drier and brighter; wind mainly E fresh or strong; max temp 4C or 5C (39F to 41F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Cloudy, outbreaks of sleet or snow, becoming brighter but showery, showers wintry; wind E fresh, locally strong for a time; max temp 3C or 4C (37F to 39F).

Aberdeen, Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Snow showers, some heavy, bright or sunny intervals developing: wind E or SE moderate, locally fresh; max temp 2C or 3C (36F or 37F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Cloudy, outbreaks of sleet or snow dying out, bright or sunny periods developing; wind E backing NE fresh, locally strong at first; max temp 3C or 4C (37F to 39F).

Argyll, NW Scotland: Bright or sunny periods, scattered snow showers; wind E moderate or fresh; max temp 2C to 4C (36F to 39F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Sunny intervals and wintry showers, mainly in E after rain and sleet clears from S, rather cold generally.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SE strong to gale, occasionally severe gale; sea very rough. English Channel (E): Wind SE gale to storm veering SW; sea very rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SE backing E gale occasionally storm, sea very rough.

Sun rises: 7.49 am | Sun sets: 4.36 pm
Moon rises: 1.58 am | Moon sets: 11.33 am
New Moon February 1.

Lighting-up time

London 5.08 pm to 7.17 am
Bristol 5.18 pm to 7.27 am
Edinburgh 5.02 pm to 7.46 am
Manchester 5.09 pm to 7.33 am
Penzance 5.35 pm to 7.34 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	s	-1	30	Guernsey	f	6	43
Birmingham	s	2	36	Inverness	s	-4	25
Blackpool	f	3	37	Jersey	f	6	43
Bristol	s	4	39	London	s	6	43
Cardiff	r	3	37	Manchester	c	1	34
Edinburgh	f	1	34	Newcastle	c	0	32
Glasgow	c	1	34	Ronaldsway	s	4	39

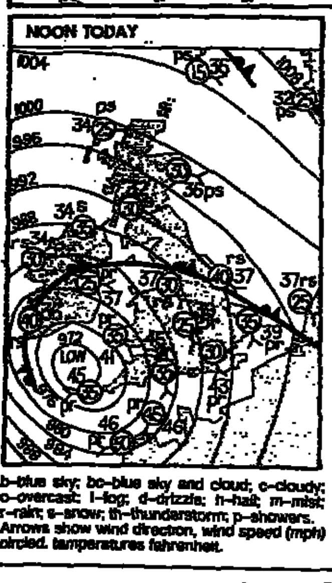
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 1C (34F). Humidity: 6 pm, 69 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 5.8 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,012.7 millibars falling. 1,000millibars=29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance 8C (46F); Lowest day max: Aberdeen Dyce Airport, -1C (30F); highest rainfall: Scilly Isles 0.37in; highest sunshine: Folkestone 6.6hr.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)



b-blue sky; bc-blue sky and cloud; c-cloudy; o-overcast; f-fog; d-drizzle; h-hail; m-mist; r-rain; s-snow; th-thunderstorm; p-showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled. temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.34	6.5	8.19	6.4
Aberdeen	7.45	3.5	8.04	3.7
Avonmouth	12.46	11.2	1.12	11.2
Belfast	5.12	3.0	5.39	3.3
Cardiff	12.31	10.4	12.57	10.4
Devonport	11.43	4.7		
Dover	4.47	6.0	5.27	5.6
Falmouth	11.13	4.5	11.54	4.4
Glasgow	6.49	4.3	6.56	4.6
Harwich	5.30	3.5	6.18	3.3
Holyhead	4.27	4.8	4.54	4.8
Hull			12.34	6.2
Ilfracombe			12.03	7.6
Leith	853	4.8	9.20	4.9
Liverpool	5.08	7.9	5.34	8.0
Lowestoft	3.11	2.3	4.14	2.0
Margate	5.36	4.4	6.29	4.1
Milford Haven			12.25	5.9
Newquay	11.25	5.9		
Oban			12.05	3.1
Penzance	11.02	4.7	11.42	4.5
Portland	12.20	1.5	12.33	1.6
Portsmouth	5.31	4.2	6.01	3.9
Shoreham	4.58	5.5	5.34	5.1
Southampton	5.01	4.1	5.32	3.9
Swansea			12.28	7.8
Tees	1009	4.4	10.27	4.5
Walton-on-Naze	5.22	3.8	6.10	3.6

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Scarboro	2.9	-	1	34	sunny pm	Guernsey	-	.17	7	45	bright
Bridlington	4.4	.01	2	36	sunny pm	Scilly Isles	-	.37	7	45	rain pm
Cromer	3.7	.04	1	34	sunny	Newquay	-	.07	6	43	rain pm
Lowestoft	3.4	-	1	34	sunny	Ilfracombe	-	.27	7	45	bright
Clacton	5.7	-	4	39	sunny	Tenby	-	.01	6	43	cloudy
Margate	—	-	-	-	-	Southport	3.0	.28	5	41	sleet
Folkestone	6.6	-	6	43	sunny	Morecambe	2.9	.12	4	39	snow am
Hastings	6.1	-	7	45	sunny	Douglas	3.9	.01	4	39	bright
Eastbourne	6.5	-	6	43	sunny	London (Ctrl)	5.8	-	7	45	sunny
Brighton	-	-	5	41	sunny	B'ham (Airpt)	4.6	.01	3	37	sunny
Worthing	3.9	.02	6	43	shwrs pm	Bristol (Ctrl)	2.1	-	5	41	sleet pm
Littlehmptn	3.2	.01	6	43	sunny am	Cardiff (Ctrl)	0.3	-	4	39	shwrs am
Bognor R	3.5	.01	7	45	sunny pm	Anglesey	2.7	.01	5	41	hail am
Southsea	2.6	-	6	43	cloudy	B'pool (Airpt)	3.3	.08	4	39	snow am
Sandown	3.4	-	6	43	sunny am	Manchester	1.9	.24	3	37	snow
Bournemth	2.2	-	6	43	bright am	Nottingham	3.2	-	3	37	sunny
Poole	-	-	-	-	-	N'ctl-n-Tyne	4.5	-	3	37	sunny pm
Swanage	-	-	-	-	-	Carlisle	2.1	.02	3	37	bright
Weymouth	2.2	-	7	45	bright am	Eskdalemuir	2.6	.01	0	32	shwrs pm
Exmouth	0.4	-	7	45	cloudy	Prestwick	1.1	.09	3	37	showers
Torquay	-	.01	7	45	cloudy	Glasgow	1.0	0.4	2	36	snow
Falmouth	-	.29	7	45	rain pm	Tiree	3.0	.24	4	39	snow

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	f	11	52	Copenhgn	sn	1	34	Majorca	s	15	59	Rio de Jan*	f	25	77
Akrotiri	c	18	64	Corfu	f	11	52	Malaga	s	16	61	Rome	s	12	54
Alexandria	s	21	70	Dallas*	c	2	35	Malta	c	12	54	Salzburg	sn	4	39
Algiers	f	16	61	Dublin	f	2	36	Melbourne	r	17	63	Sao Paulo*	s	23	73
Amsterdam	f	1	34	Dubrovnik	s	8	46	Mexico C*	f	19	66	S Francisco*	s	14	57
Athens	f	13	55	Faro	s	14	57	Miami*	f	26	79	Santiago*	s	28	82
Bahrain	c	17	63	Florence				Milan	s	10	50	Seoul	s	-6	21
Barbados*	s	28	82	Frankfurt	f	3	37	Montreal*	r	1	34	Singapore	r	24	75
Barcelona	s	12	54	Funchal	f	16	61	Moscow	c	-7	19	Stockholm	sn	-5	23
Beirut	f	18	64	Geneva	f	2	36	Munich	c	-1	30	Strasbourg	f	4	39
Belgrade	r	2	36	Gibraltar	s	16	61	Nairobi				Sydney	s	33	91
Berlin	c	2	36	Helsinki	sn	-7	19	Naples	s	10	50	Tangier	s	16	61
Bermuda*	r	16	64	Hongkong	c	14	57	New Delhi	s	17	63	Tel Aviv	s	19	66
Biarritz	s	11	52	Innsbruck	c	1	34	New York*	r	2	36	Tenerife	c	19	66
Boulogne	f	6	43	Istanbul	r	9	48	Nice	s	12	54	Tokyo	s	9	48
Bordeaux	s	10	50	Jiddah	s	29	84	Oslo	f	-11	12	Toronto*	c	2	34
Brussels	s	3	37	Jo'burg	s	27	81	Ottawa				Tunis	f	15	59
Budapest	sn	2	36	Karachi	s	21	70	Paris	s	5	41	Valencia	s	15	59
Buen Aires*	s	30	86	Las Palmas	f	20	68	Peking				Vancouver*	r	8	46
Cairo				Lisbon	s	9	48	Perth	s	26	79	Venice	sn	7	45
Cape Tn	s	25	77	Locarno	f	8	46	Prague	sn	1	34	Vienna	f	3	37
C'blanca	s	16	61	L Angeles*	c	16	61	Reykjavik	f	-6	21	Warsaw	sn	0	32
Chicago*	s	2	36	Luxembg	c	-1	30	Rhodes	f	13	55	Washington*	s	-3	26
Cologne	f	2	36	Madrid	s	6	43	Riyadh	s	18	64	Zurich	s	1	34

* denotes Tuesday's figures are latest available